



Middy
EARLY WINTER 2026

EARLY WINTER 2026

IN
CONVERSATION
WITH
PRESIDENT
**IAN
BAUM**

Middy





**JOYEUX
ANNIVERSAIRE**

One of Middlebury's most distinctive buildings, le Château, was completed in 1925 as the country's first purpose-built maison française. It was the dream of the first director of the French School (now the Betty Ashbury Jones MA '86 School of French), H. P. Robinson de Visme, Class of 1896. Having founded a school of French for Americans at the Château de Soisy-sous-Étiolles outside of Paris, he sought a similar setting in support of the College's innovative total immersion approach to language acquisition. In 1922 his vision inspired summer student Fredericka Holden to pledge \$62,500 to be matched by the College for such a facility. President Moody engaged architect James Layng Mills, an alumnus of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, to design a characteristically French manor house. Mills chose stucco (originally yellow) with brick-framed windows and doors (as utilized for Henry IV's 17th-century additions to the Château de Fontainebleau) for a symmetrical building with dormers and twin peaked towers. It accommodated a self-contained French-speaking world of salons, classrooms, dining hall, library, offices, and quarters for a directress and 45 women students. He located it on the north (women's) campus

axially opposite McCullough, the men's gym, and adjacent to what a campus expansion plan of 1909 had projected as a formal oval French garden. Construction in the 1950s and '60s found it reigning over its own quadrangle.

In 1959 its character as an embodiment of French culture inspired philanthropist Susan Dwight Bliss to gift 18th-century paneling, acquired for her New York mansion from the Hôtel de Crillon in Paris, for reconfiguration and installation in le Château in what was known as the Louis XVI Room. Used for special occasions until it was water damaged in 1990, the room was removed and later restored as part of the College art collection. In celebration of the centenary of le Château, this significant room's history and reconstruction are featured on exhibition in the Museum of Art until December.

At 100, le Château is now the frontispiece of Atwater Commons. Though it is no longer an exclusive French-speaking dormitory, it remains the seat of Middlebury's undergraduate French Department and graduate summer language school and is an enduring symbol of the College's important role in language education.

GLENN ANDRES IS A PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE AT MIDDLEBURY. AS A SCHOLAR AND AUTHOR, HE HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON THE BUILDINGS OF THE TOWN AND COLLEGE.

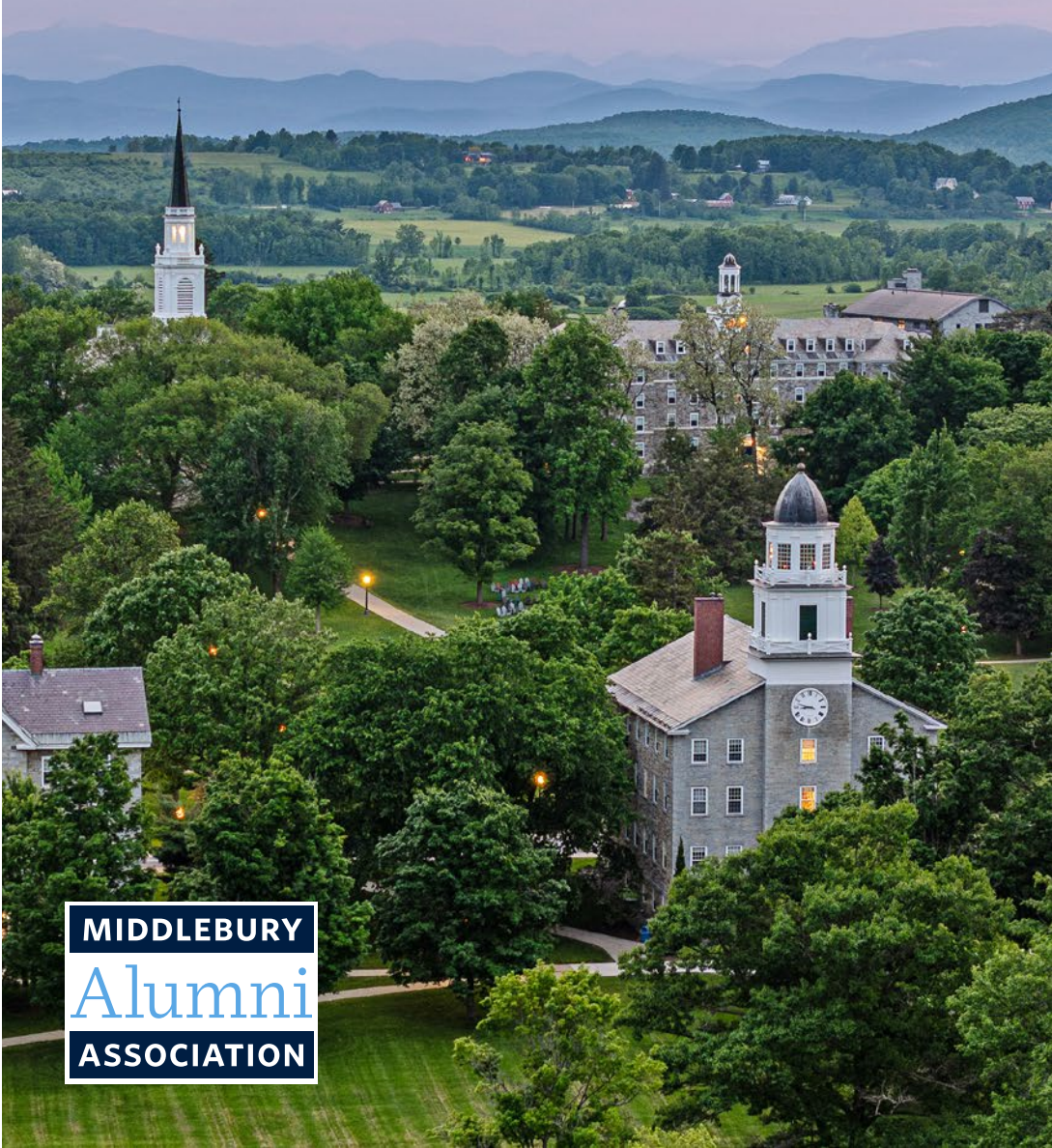
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OF NOTE



Picture in Picture

On a Thursday afternoon during the second week of October, Ian Baucom and I walked from his office in Old Chapel to the Abernethy Room in the Axinn Center for the Humanities. Photographer Brett Simison, along with my colleague Paul Dahm, was there, having set up a seamless backdrop for the cover shoot of this issue. (Paul, a senior designer in our office, is also an accomplished photographer and was there to document the shoot. His behind-the-scenes image is above, accompanying this behind-the-scenes account.)

I’m learning that Ian is a fairly chill guy and quite personable, which makes a photo shoot—a rather invasive endeavor for the subject and photographer alike—more fun than awkward. He chatted easily with Brett, Paul, and me; at one point, he was asked to direct his gaze off camera. I was standing off to the side, and Brett suggested that Ian look at me.

Our 18th president dryly quipped: “When I was doing a photoshoot at UVA, they had me look at a portrait of Jefferson.”

Oh, how I wish I was quick-thinking enough to volley back a wittier return than “And now you’re stuck with me.” Alas.

PAUL DAHM

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At another point, Ian was telling Brett about his childhood growing up in South Africa. He and I had spoken at length about this period of his life in our conversation published in this issue; I have also heard him relay several anecdotes about his childhood—many involving his experience as a child actor—in speeches and public remarks. And here he added to the canon, relating how he had appeared in a British theater production of *On Golden Pond*. (“I was the grandson,” he said.)

These anecdotes are endearing and often inflected with more than a dollop of self-deprecation. Ian is able to meld high-minded thoughts about higher education and the meaning of democracy with these personal touches in a way that makes for an inspirational, yet also relatable, president. I’m hoping you find that to be the case in our featured conversation—and in your own encounters with him, now or in the future.

— MJ

Midd

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BRETT SIMISON

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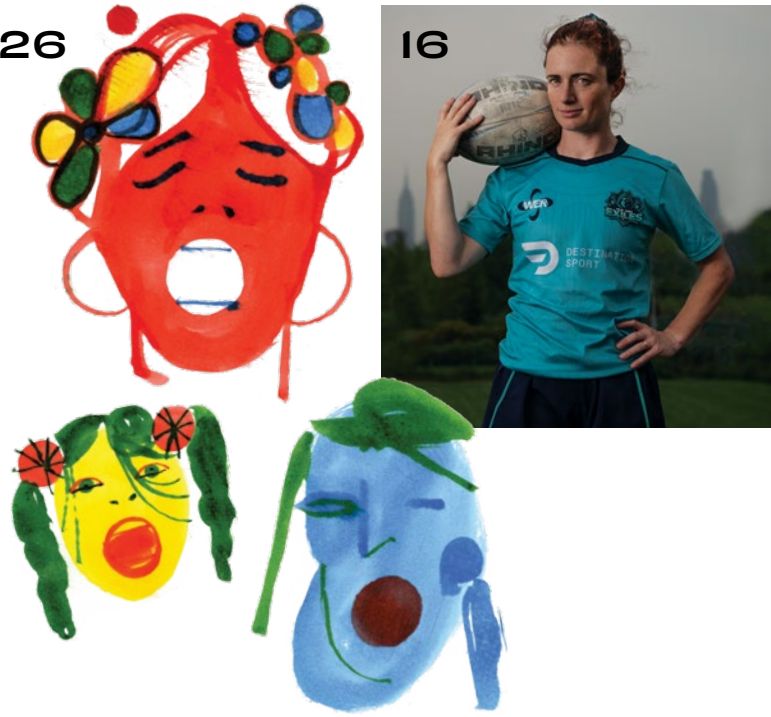
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FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS



JAY HEINRICHS '77
“HOW ARISTOTLE GAVE ME JAYLIGHT SAVINGS”
Heinrichs's books on rhetoric have been assigned at Harvard and printed in nearly two dozen languages. His latest is *Aristotle's Guide to Self-Persuasion*.



JOYCE KIM
“37 MINUTES WITH AUBRIANNA WILSON '23”
Based in Los Angeles, Kim has contributed photographs to the likes of *Time*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and the *New York Times*.



ANDREW RAE
“APPROACHING 100”
A UK-based illustrator, Rae has rendered irreverent images for newspapers, magazines, book publishers, and advertising agencies around the globe.



BRETT SIMISON
COVER, FIRST LOOK, “GREEN PEACE,” AND “IN CONVERSATION WITH IAN BAUCOM”
A longtime contributor to this publication, Simison is an award-winning photographer, a New England transplant from Alabama, and an all-around swell fellow.

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Sea Otters, Considered

As an annual visitor from the East Coast to Monterey Bay Aquarium, Elkhorn Slough, and the Central Coast, I applaud Middlebury’s involvement in the research and reporting on the habitat of the California sea otter (“Consider the Sea Otter,” winter/spring 2025). I hope to be a docent at the aquarium when we retire to the Monterey Bay Area in five years, and plan to work my way up to becoming an orphan otter groomer, cleaning a lot of enclosures along the way!

— FELICE DE RUGGIERO '90, WEST NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Still Considering

What a superb story (“Consider the Sea Otter”)—and very well written. And who knew otters had one million hairs per square inch of their body! Thank you so much for an excellent article.

— BRET WALRATH '73,
COMMENTING ON MIDDMAG.COM

Living in the Now

Midd Magazine’s interview with Lorraine Besser was an excellent read—it really resonates with me in this post-MBA-what-am-I-doing-now moment! I’ll have to add this book to my TBR list!

— BRET WALRATH '73,
COMMENTING ON MIDDMAG.COM

Remembering David Colander

I was sad to hear of David Colander’s passing (In Memoriam, winter/spring 2025). I did a minor in economics, and though I only took one class from Professor Colander, Introduction to Macroeconomics, it was one of the best classes I took at Middlebury. His practical approach to teaching taught me so much about the world around me, and I especially appreciated that he devoted one class a week to discussing articles from the *Wall Street Journal* to put what we were learning in the classroom in context.

The single most important lesson he taught me came when someone in the class complained that one of the tests contained material we hadn’t covered in class. His answer: “I’m taking it easy on you by teaching 60–70 percent of what the test covers. Once you’re out in the real world, you’ll only have 20–30 percent of the information you need to make decisions. You’ve got to learn how to do that.”

I have thought of that lesson so many times since I graduated.

—ALEX BLANTON '92, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

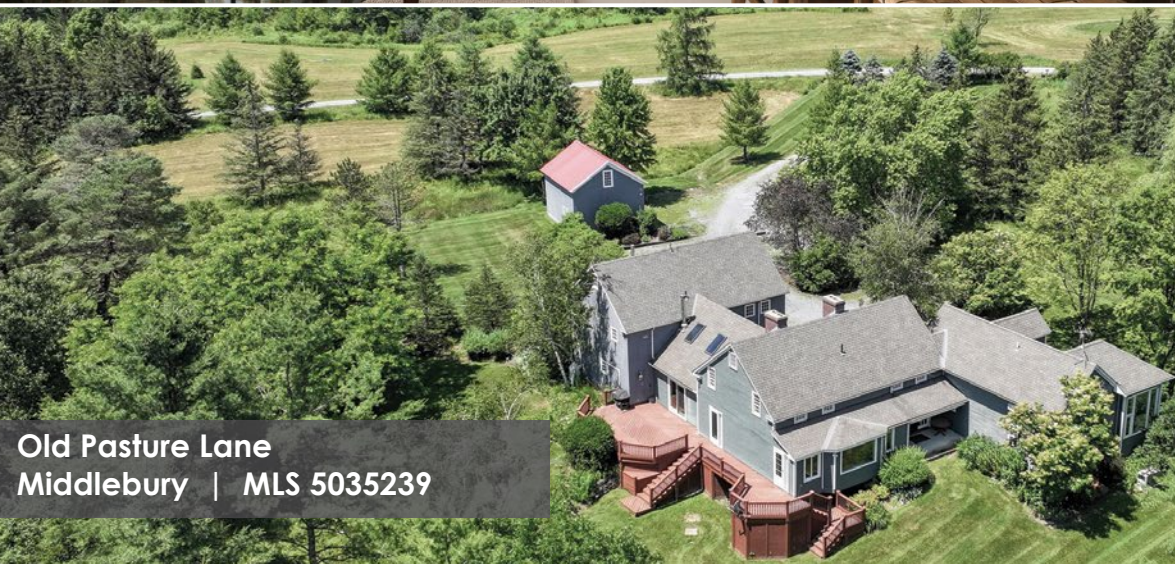
Letters Policy

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity and clarity. On any given subject, we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to: Midd Magazine, 2 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.

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UP FRONT

A TOUR AROUND THE MIDDLEBURY CONSTELLATION



37 MINUTES WITH Aubrianna Wilson '23

A recent alumna is doing her part to create a world in which people with disabilities are seen—and celebrated.

AUBRIANNA WILSON '23, a Posse Scholar and first-generation student at Middlebury, may only be 24, but already she has spent years advocating for greater awareness and acceptance of disabled people in society. In August, through a series of emails, she and staff writer Jessie Raymond '90 had the following conversation.

MIDD MAGAZINE: You graduated from Middlebury in 2023 with a degree in neuroscience and a minor in global health studies. How did you arrive at those choices, and how have they affected your current path?

AUBRIANNA WILSON: I joined Middlebury with an eagerness to care for others, which motivated me toward medicine. But along the way, I fell in love with critical disability studies, and I discovered that there are many meaningful paths to helping others beyond health care.

MM: Your disability advocacy activities began at Middlebury, right?

AW: Yes. I was an advocate in every space I joined. I was a MiddSafe advocate, a chemistry lab teaching assistant, a resident assistant, a neuroscience research



assistant, a science building stockroom assistant, and a calculus grader. I was a student representative on the Advisory Group on Disability, Access, and Inclusion. I served in the Student Government as a senator and committee director, and was the copresident of a student organization.

MM: What would you say is your most important contribution as a student?
AW: I’m most proud of the Middlebury Accessibility Needs Survey and Report. Over two years, I led a team of student advocates to gather and elevate over 150 voices on the barriers to full participation in the Middlebury student experience. We presented actionable recommendations to senior leadership—empowering student stories for institutional progress toward creating a Middlebury for all.

MM: You were awarded a Watson Fellowship. What made you decide to apply for that, and what was the experience like?
AW: I first learned about fellowships from a dear friend during our junior year. That conversation opened up a world of opportunity, and it speaks to how transformative it can be when we open doors for one another. Disability communities were the heart and driving force of my Watson. It was the greatest gift to spend a year in community with so many fierce, brilliant disabled folks—to immerse myself in disability culture. My Watson was only possible because of all the people who supported my journey.

MM: Traveling abroad can be daunting for anyone; how did you find getting around in all different countries, beyond the usual language barriers and cultural differences? Had you traveled internationally before?
AW: Before my Watson, I had spent no more than a week abroad. In my original proposal, I planned to live in four countries. Listening to local communities transformed my path, guiding me to over 30 locations across eight countries: the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Japan, Australia, and Aotearoa/New Zealand. This adventure continues to shatter my perceptions of what disabled people are capable of, including myself.
Disabled people defy the limiting stereotypes placed on us. We are innovators

because we live in a world that hasn’t imagined us and still does not embrace us as valuable members. Lessons that I learned and relearned from my disabled mentors and my own lived experience: the myths of the many “can’ts” that get attached to disabled people—we can’t live independently, can’t travel, can’t experience joy. The truth is, we can, and some do, and we want more of us to be able to.

MM: What did your experience abroad teach you about disability across societies?
AW: My Watson celebrated the many ways disabled people create joy together. Disability is a lived experience that is so much more than tragedy. I discovered the power of disabled joy in different national and cultural contexts. Joy as a tool to sustain ourselves and our communities. I grew from every hug, every dance, every cry, every laugh, every goodbye, and every hello. Disabled joy has heavily shaped who I am.

MM: What have you been doing since returning to the U.S. ?
AW: Near the end of my Watson, I sought out opportunities where I could use what I had learned to support my communities. I joined the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange (NCDE) as part of MIUSA (Mobility International USA). As a program coordinator, I supported people with disabilities to access global opportunities and built awareness of disability inclusion in international exchange programs. My position was entirely federally funded by the Department of State; unfortunately, with grant funding cuts, it was eliminated.
Now I am thrilled to have joined the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), working as the state voting coalitions coordinator as part of the Accessible Democracy team. I support the REV UP network, serving as the liaison for state coalitions. REV UP stands for “Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power!” This grassroots movement builds civic engagement in the disability community and improves the accessibility of elections. In practice, this looks like supporting a national network of local organizers by building their capacity and equipping them with the resources and education needed to empower their communities and the disability vote.

MM: You have just returned from a leadership conference. Can you talk about what you did or learned there?
AW: This year, I had the honor to participate in LeadNext*, a leadership exchange program that, in its official wording, “builds a vibrant network of future leaders aged 18–25 and supports their growth, impact, and capacity to address today’s greatest challenges.”
I just got back from our culminating leadership summit in San Francisco. Through cross-cultural exchanges, our cohort deepened our understanding of how to navigate complexity and collaborate across differences as global citizens.
MM: How do you feel about the current and future progress of disability awareness and accommodation in the U.S.?
AW: As a broader society, we still need to make progress around the basics, understanding that disability is not a problem to be solved or overcome. Disability is a lived experience and a world of expertise.

There is progress to celebrate in the history of disability rights and justice advocacy. For example, some universities have disability resource centers that include cultural programming and actively recruit excellent employees who are also disabled. More disabled students are accessing higher education and going on to lead fulfilling lives and careers.
We also continue to push against rivers. Discrimination against disabled people runs deep. We still struggle to be recognized as whole, self-determining human beings. My everyday life is grounded in disability community, which is abundant, liberating, and sustaining. It’s also rare. I hope one day we can all live in communities where disabled people are thriving.

MM: What you are most proud of, and what you are looking forward to?
AW: I am proud of my openness to learn. I have been gifted with the most generous of teachers.
What I look forward to is an accessible future. I want to honor Sins Invalid, a culture and justice performance group, that reminds us to build communities where we leave no one behind.

MM: What’s next for you, short term and long term?
AW: What comes to mind first is in the short term: I just finished reading *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler, so I plan on reading the sequel next.
When I envision my future, I am grounded in my sense of purpose. One of the many ways my Watson lives on within me is that I continue to embrace uncertainty. Before my travels, I was very plan oriented. I wanted to draw the map before I embarked. But I’ve come to learn that the magic in life often can’t be seen far down the road.
So what’s exciting right now? I get to use my skills in problem solving, coordination, and community engagement toward a world that I want to be my future.
And what’s next? I hope to continue empowering disability communities. 📌

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Pitch Perfect

Sarah Minahan '14 finds success in the first professional woman's rugby league in the U.S.

BY JANE DORNBUSCH

For Sarah Minahan '14, rugby is all about fun, teamwork, and camaraderie. And tackling.

Today, Minahan—known to teammates as “Mini” since her Middlebury days—plays the pivotal position of scrum half (roughly comparable to the role of quarterback in football) for the New York Exiles, one of the six teams that make up Women’s Elite Rugby. The new women’s professional rugby league’s inaugural season wrapped in June; the Exiles made it to the final game before falling to powerhouse Denver.

Playing at the professional level was perhaps the last thing on Minahan’s mind when she walked on to the field (or “pitch,” in rugby speak) as a first-year. “As a little kid, I was very active, climbing on things and wrestling with my dad and doing gymnastics. But going into college, I didn’t consider myself an athlete,” says Minahan. She ran cross country and track in high school at Boston Latin, but, she says, “it was literally just me and my friends jogging to Dunks.”

Nonetheless, she knew she wanted to play a team sport in college. “I thought it would be cool. It was really about my desire to find a collaborative community and make friends, especially as I was starting college.” The options were few, she says: “There are not that many sports you can just join—basically, there’s Ultimate Frisbee, rugby, and crew.” Crew didn’t seem to offer the team spirit she was seeking, so she thought she’d play Ultimate. “But I was kind of intrigued by rugby, because you could tackle people, and I was interested in that,” says Minahan. “And it just so happened that the first rugby practice was before the first Ultimate practice, so I thought I’d just go and see what happened.” Thus was born a career.

Slightly intimidated, she recruited a friend, Emily Duh '14, to join her that first day. “We went to the practice,” Minahan recalls, “and it was like, ‘OK, you’re on the team, you’re one of us.’ Everyone is so excited to have you there, and there’s no pretense about not making the team. I was immediately drawn in, seeing that they were all really good friends.”

That first fall, she says, “I remember the social parts. You’re a freshman, and the sophomores would invite you to their dorm, and it was so exciting to be included. And there’s a really fun part of college rugby called ‘singing’ or ‘choir’ that’s done all over the world. You get together on a Thursday night and sing all these rugby songs, which are varying degrees of crude. I thought that was so fun—such a creative, unique way to spend a couple of hours



SARAH'S RUGGERS TO WATCH

Sarah Minahan takes a global view in naming her favorite female players



Keira Bevan
SCRUM HALF, WALES

"I love her fast style of play."



Gabrielle Vernier
CENTER, FRANCE

"She's probably the smallest center in the game, while also being an incredible tackler."



Portia Woodman-Wickliffe
WING, NEW ZEALAND

"An absolute legend of women's rugby, she's the all-time leading try scorer for NZ, married to her former teammate (like me) and peaking in her 30s (like me)."

together. There would always be a theme, and we'd wear costumes. It felt silly and—well, *countercultural* is maybe too strong a word, but it was different from just sitting on the floor of the dorm room and then going dancing, which seemed so boring.”

Minahan came for the social aspects but stayed for true love of the game, which soon followed. “I was fully hooked,” she says. Part of the attraction was the tackling. “As a girl growing up, you don’t see or play any sports where girls get to tackle. When you do get to do it, it’s like something very exciting and slightly forbidden.”

Initially, she says, “I struggled a little with my actual rugby skills.” Sophomore year was tough, “and I wasn’t sure there was a spot for me”—one of several moments on her journey to the Exiles when she considered throwing in the towel. She had been playing wing (“where people on college teams who don’t know what they’re doing end up”), but the team’s assistant coach approached her about the scrum half position and spent time helping her learn the role.

It was a good fit. “The scrum half has to be there for every single tackle, to play the ball out,” says Minahan. “Basically, it involves a lot of running and scrappiness. You have to be very fit; you have to be able to hold your own and punch above your weight class.”

In a sport that rewards size, Minahan, at five foot two and 120 pounds, is often the smallest player on the team, so she’s certainly accustomed to punching above her weight; the sobriquet “Mini” derives from both her name and her small stature. But one aspect of the culture Minahan cherishes is that “rugby was the first time I saw women genuinely celebrated for being bigger. People are proud of their size; you’re using your size to do something for the team. That’s a very special part of women’s rugby.”

Minahan is modest about her college play, but those who knew her then say she brought something special to the pitch, even as her skills were still developing. Her Middlebury coach, K.O. Onufry—herself a legend in women’s rugby who played on a men’s team at UMass Amherst in the 1970s (before women’s teams existed) and was a member of six national champion club teams—says,



Being a scrum half “involves a lot of running and scrappiness,” says Minahan.

“Mini stood out because of her super attitude, her willingness to help other people, and her great sense of humor and infectious smile. People like her made a difference in our club.” Teammate Duh, who accompanied Minahan on that first day and stuck with the sport through college, says, “She was always the hardest-working player and knew the rules better than anyone. From the beginning, she dedicated herself to being a real student of the game. She always had leadership qualities; that’s why she was voted captain as a senior.”

While living in New York after college, Minahan thought she’d pursue club rugby, joining a Women’s Premier League team. (The WPL was the precursor to the new Women’s Elite Rugby organization.) The first practice was an eye-opener: “I was like, ‘What the F is happening? Maybe I’ve never actually played this sport before.’” She recalls, “They already had play calls; they were talking about ‘running lines.’ I didn’t know what that was, since I had never played soccer and didn’t have context from other sports. Middlebury was a good rugby team—we actually had really talented players and strong athletes—but we didn’t have complex plans.” This was rugby on a whole different level. That year, she says, “I had a lot of fun, but I was completely in over my head.”

Minahan doesn’t hesitate to say she was the worst player on the team, but her skills improved over time. Truly key were the two years she spent in Boston, attending grad school—she holds a master’s degree in speech and language pathology; her day job is as a speech language therapist at a school for children with disabilities—and playing for a local Division I team, a level below WPL. It was a less competitive organization than New York, and the result was that she got lots of playing time and experience. “That’s what really helped me grow from the college level to the elite level,” says Minahan.

Like so much else, rugby shut down when COVID struck. Minahan’s hiatus from the game lasted more than a year. “I wasn’t sure I was going to go back. I was only 27, but I thought, ‘Maybe I’ll retire.’ That was my attitude going into the summer of 2021. I thought I’d give it a try, but I wasn’t going to do it unless it was fun.” She joined a sevens team—the version of the sport played in the Olympics, fielding seven players a side playing seven-minute halves, as compared to the usual 15 players and 40-minute halves—and, she says, “it was awesome, and I still really wanted to play.”

Returning to her New York team in 2022, she found her skills had taken her to the next level, and, she says, “I’ve been a solid member of the team for the past three years.”

It was spring 2024 when the WPL players learned that the pro league would soon

be launched, just as women’s sports generally seemed to be gaining momentum. “It is our time,” says Middlebury coach Onufry. “Look at basketball and soccer, where they’re going with the game. More and more, there’s an audience for women’s sports.”

The WPL teams—in New York, Boston, Chicago, Denver, the Twin Cities, and the Bay Area—remained and formed the new WER league, and a draft was held for the players, with no guarantee that current players would be invited to join. Minahan, to her delight, was chosen to stay in New York. She wasn’t exactly surprised, she says, but “because of the path I’ve taken to get here, I very rarely just assume I’ll be on a roster.”

Going pro has changed the experience, she says, but perhaps more for the spectators than the players. “Rugby has always been extremely important to me; the difference now is that everyone else cares,” says Minahan. “You slap the word ‘professional’ on it and suddenly people pay attention—they’re following stats, they’re buying merch.” Games are also now live streamed, which helps build a fan base, and the games are played at larger and more fully equipped venues, with jumbotrons and scoreboards.

The sport is drawing ever-larger crowds, and while fans may not know all the famously arcane rules, they enjoy the fast pace and impressive skills on display. “People in general have more fun watching the games than I expected,” says Minahan. And making it to the final game was as exciting as it was unexpected: “At the beginning of the season, we didn’t think we’d be there.” But the chemistry of the team, mostly made up of players who’d been together for years, “ended up being our superpower. The thing that got us there was cohesion and the connections we have on and off the field.”

Without question, Minahan has gotten just what she’d hoped for in joining a team sport—many times over. “I think team sports are just an incredible model for real-life problem solving,” she says. “People on the team have different lifestyles and different jobs, and they bring different things into the space, but we’re all working toward one goal. Yes, it’s just a game, but to have all these women come together and problem solve together is truly inspiring.” ■

Middlebury Institute to End Grad Degree Programs

On August 28, Middlebury President Ian Baucom announced that Middlebury would be ending all residential graduate programs at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. The programs will conclude when the last class of currently enrolled students graduate in June 2027. Middlebury will also be ending online degree programs in International Education Management and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Baucom travelled to California to deliver the news in person at a town hall event in Monterey. A subsequent video announcement was then disseminated to the greater Middlebury community. In this video, Baucom stressed that the decision to end programs at the Institute—a move he recommended that was then endorsed by the Middlebury Board of Trustees in a special session—was “fundamentally a financial one and not a reflection on the quality of our programs, the dedication of our students, or our outstanding Monterey colleagues whose work is so deeply consequential and resonates around the world.”

For more than a decade, the Institute has faced a decline in enrollment, which accelerated during the pandemic; this decline has also followed recent trends among many residential graduate programs across the country.

Baucom said that he had been focused on the Institute’s financial viability since his appointment as president of Middlebury in January and had asked senior administrators “to evaluate programs, enrollments, and finances—while also examining economic conditions affecting graduate programs nationwide—and to lay out options for consideration.”

Ultimately, the administration determined that the enrollment declines and related operational deficits were unsustainable.

“This was an immensely challenging decision, one I did not recommend lightly and one the board did not endorse lightly,” Baucom said.

Middlebury first became affiliated with what was then known as the Monterey Institute of International Studies in 2005; the Institute officially merged with Middlebury in 2010.

Baucom stressed that the move “does not reflect a retreat from [Middlebury’s] global mission. As I said in my first-day message as president, whatever our decision on MIIS, we must and will continue to be a Middlebury for the world: a Middlebury for students, faculty, languages, and ideas from around the globe. That commitment has long defined us. In a time when many nations—ours included—are turning inward, that resolute openness to the world must and will remain defining of who we are and what we are for.”

At the same time the Board of Trustees voted to end graduate instruction at the Institute, it approved the recommendation to maintain centers that are determined to be fiscally self-sustaining. One such operation is the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS), which will continue to operate under the greater Middlebury umbrella in multiple locations including Monterey; Washington, D.C.; Vienna, Austria; and now Middlebury. In September, the College announced that CNS would be opening its first office on the Vermont campus. ■

“This was an immensely challenging decision, one I did not recommend lightly and one the board did not endorse lightly.”

IAN BAUCOM,
MIDDLEBURY PRESIDENT

GO FIGURE

This winter, the Middlebury women's ice hockey program turns 50. Founded as a club sport in the 1970s, the program was elevated to varsity status in 1981 and quickly established itself as one of the premier teams in Division III.

755

Winning percentage since the start of varsity play

6

Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships*

12

NESCAC championships, a conference record

5

National championships (2 ACHA and 3 NCAA)

46

All-American selections

4

National Players of the Year

1

Undefeated season, in 2022

*PRIOR TO 1996, MIDDLEBURY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL POSTSEASON TOURNAMENTS.

On AI

The annual Clifford Symposium—held each September on campus, with the intention of serving as an intellectual tentpole event for the fall semester—often comes with a subtitle to accompany the chosen theme. This year was no exception, though the title for this year's gathering seemed almost like a plea—"Unboxing AI: Moving Beyond Hype and Fear"

Discussions around artificial intelligence can often split people into opposing camps, with college campuses being a nexus for, well, hype and fear. So, the unboxing (or unpacking) of the Clifford's 2025 theme was timely—and cathartic.

Over the course of two days, faculty, staff, students, and practitioners wrestled with the topic, holding panel discussions, workshops, lectures, and a keynote conversation between Middlebury's president, Ian Baucom, and a former student of his at Yale, the best-selling writer, essayist, and professor of English and creative writing Meghan O'Rourke.

Toward the end of a discussion that spanned

talk of the role of AI on our campuses to the more existential query of whether AI was ushering in an era of the generic, Baucom asked O'Rourke:

"The risk side of the equation would be: Can liberal arts education survive in a moment that prioritizes speed, skill, facility, decisiveness? The most predictable answer is that it's a safe bet," said Baucom, who suggested that AI's attributes are making a case for a liberal arts education focused on producing critical thinkers. "Is that just happy talk from a liberal arts college—because of course we're going to say that's where we should be—or is there reason to be optimistic?"

O'Rourke agreed, adding that "as it turns out, a word that is really important to us—one that we don't talk enough about—is the word meaning. Faced with moments of cataclysmic change, where old meanings dissolve, we want to build new ones... We're sitting in an inflection point where we don't know what's coming, so we need the liberal arts and the humanities to help us think about and understand that. I really believe that"

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"It's really changing the role of the professor to not only being a mentor, an advocate, a researcher but to also being someone who better understands the ramifications of the digital consciousness that is being placed upon us by the power of artificial intelligence."



Hector Vila, an associate professor of writing and rhetoric, speaking to Vermont Public's Mikaela Lefrak for an episode of Vermont Edition focused on artificial intelligence in the classroom.

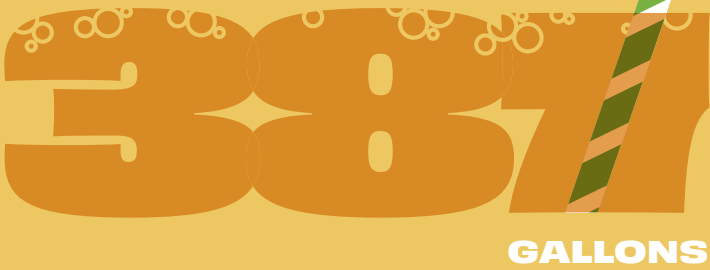
ILLUSTRATION BY KAGAN MCLEOD

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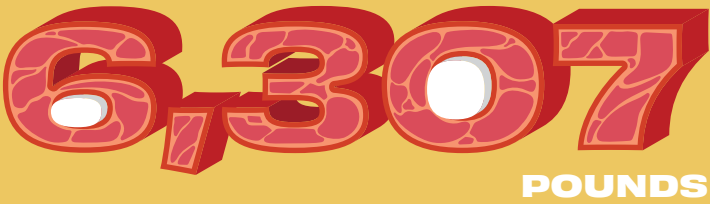
What Vermont Tastes Like

A smorgasbord of facts relating to local* foods sourced by Middlebury dining halls each semester.

LOCAL APPLE CIDER



LOCAL BEEF



LOCAL EGGS



LOCAL ICE CREAM



LOCAL MILK



LOCAL CREEMEEES



LOCAL APPLES



LOCAL CHEESE



*LOCAL IS DEFINED BY A 100-MILE RADIUS, THOUGH MOST VERMONT FOODS IN THE DINING HALLS COME FROM WITHIN A 25-MILE RADIUS.

DAVIAN-LYNN HOPKINS

MIDDLEBURY

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS & SCHOOLS ABROAD

24/7 Immersion ■ 36 Sites Around the World ■ 13 Language Schools ■ 10 Graduate Programs

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS: 18-80+ years old

SCHOOLS ABROAD: Open to students from any college or university

middlebury.edu/language-schools ■ middlebury.edu/schools-abroad

THE MIDDLE

ARTS, LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN



MEL YOKEN IS THE ULTIMATE MAN OF LETTERS. PAGE 24

A Man of Letters

The art of letter writing may be in decline, but one alumnus has kept it alive in a unique way.

BY SARA THURBER MARSHALL

Curiosity can lead a person down many roads—for Mel Yoken, who attended Middlebury’s French language school in the summers of 1959 and 1963, it has led to a lifetime of writing letters full of questions. Questions like, who was the greatest influence in your career? How did you come to write your book? What do you read for pleasure? Yoken sought answers, but he wasn’t seeking them from family and friends. His letters were written to some of the most prominent and influential celebrities, political leaders, and authors of the 20th and 21st centuries. He sent off missives to the likes of Ray Bradbury, Lucille Ball, Art Buchwald, Colin Powell, John Glenn, Agatha Christie, and Indira Gandhi. And you know what? They wrote back. “I have always been curious and was born that way,” Yoken states. “At least, so said my parents. I was congenitally incapable of being otherwise!” An inquisitive mind led to his first letter to an established author. He was working on a master’s degree in teaching at Brown University in the 1960s and striving to deepen his knowledge of French literature. “Whenever we studied a novel, a poem, or a play, I wanted to get to the main source. I vividly recall reading a satire by Jules Romains. I wrote to Romains, asking a few questions about the work, and he wrote back responding to my queries.” Emboldened, Yoken wrote again and thus began a correspondence that lasted until the author’s death in 1972.

It was just the beginning. Yoken had a lot of questions on his mind, and with a natural inclination for correspondence, he put them in writing and posted them off to specific recipients he hoped would answer them. He continued to probe

the brains of authors, interested in their writing process. John Clellon Holmes, author of what is considered the first Beat novel, wrote, “I am trying to finish two books, and I’m feeling like a man who, while riding a mare, plans to break a stallion—perhaps tomorrow.” Martha Gellhorn, war correspondent and third wife of Ernest Hemingway, wrote, “For two years I’ve been suffering from writer’s block, which is exactly like being lost or stationary in an endless tunnel without light. Everything I started died. Now this last week for the first time I am cross-stitching away at a story, trembling slightly on my unsteady pins, which I believe I can finish.”

Yoken branched out to contact famous people from all walks of life. One of his prized letters came from Ronald Reagan, whom he wrote to in 1968 when Reagan was governor of California. “He was an actor and well-known politician,” Yoken says. “I had questions that I felt were important to ask and I wrote him. He responded with a detailed, two-page letter.” Reagan described influences in his life, such as Winston Churchill, whom he’s sorry he never met; he talked about the help and encouragement he got from fellow actors when starting his acting career; and he became philosophical about problems facing the nation, like welfare programs. He wrote, “Somehow, this gigantic hodgepodge of overlapping programs has led to a purely materialistic philosophy of thinking that by filling a person’s belly with bacon and beans, we have solved his problem forever.... Welfare, like a doctor, should be operating on the basis of healing the patient, so the patient no longer needs his services.”

Some of the luminaries who wrote to Yoken became friends, and he met them in person. “Over the years, I have reached out to authors to invite them to colloquies, seminars, programs, and events, which I attend. I was the director of the Boivin Center for French Language and Culture at UMass Dartmouth, and I invited chef Julia Child as one of our guests to take part in our lecture series. She consented to speak.” Yoken had been corresponding with her for several years and was delighted to finally meet her. On another occasion, he was in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and drove

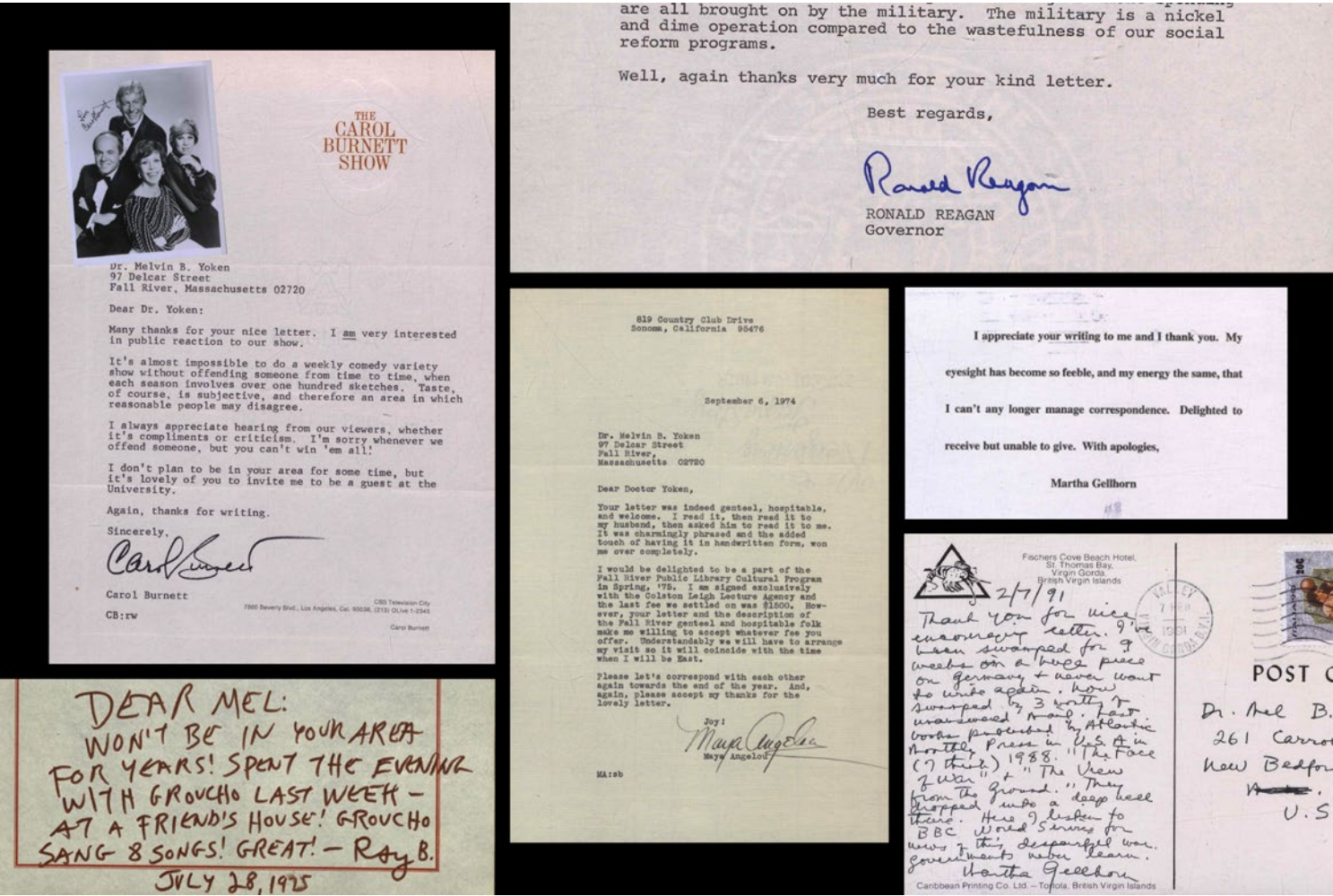
by the home of Norman Rockwell, *Saturday Evening Post* illustrator, because he admired his work. Rockwell happened to be in the driveway. “I got out of the car, and we began a conversation,” says Yoken. “A few weeks later, I wrote him, and we began a correspondence.”

Not surprisingly, Yoken speaks at length about the importance of the written word, and the longevity letters can have. With the development over the years of quick communication, via an email or a text, letter writing has become a lost art. Yoken writes, “Letters are truly literary monuments, which show deep, penetrating feelings, emotions, and character. They delineate how people have felt, lived, and acted; they celebrate friendships, love affairs, admirations, and heartbreaks.” He adds, “And what about history? Most of our knowledge of people and events is based on epistolary communication. Think of Harry Truman’s letters to Bess, Henry VIII’s to Anne Boleyn, Napoleon’s to Josephine,

Yoken speaks at length about the importance of the written word, and the longevity letters can have.

John Keats’s to Fanny Brawne, Madame de Sévigné’s letters to her daughter, and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s to his.”

Yoken has done his best to add to that history. With over five decades of personal correspondence saved, he houses them in more than 4,000 binders full of some 300,000 sheets in the John Hay Library at Brown University for use by students, scholars, and authors. Researchers can read a letter from Richard Nixon, written even as he was facing the fallout from Watergate, in which he avers that faith in the country is strong and “people of the Nation—who have contributed so much to the progress of



mankind—will help this Administration to achieve the great goals we seek for America and for the world.” A student of the history of music can delight in words written by jazz great Louis Armstrong on the back of a diet chart that reads “Lose Weight, The Satchmo Way!” in which Armstrong says “Joe King Oliver, cornet player in the good old New Orleans days, and a few others influenced me the most.” Television buffs can enjoy comedian Carol Burnett’s description of how she created her “dancing nun” routine. The idea was based on an experience Burnett had while a patient in a Catholic hospital. One of the Sisters on the staff came to her room and told Burnett how much she had enjoyed her

Yoken corresponded with notable figures such as Ronald Reagan, Maya Angelou, Carol Burnett, and more.

performances over the years. She then revealed she was a tap dancer herself and had been in show business. “With that, the Sister gracefully lifted her skirts and proceeded to dance for me. The entire scene was so amusing, and the Sister was perfectly delightful. She had a marvelous sense of humor.”

But you don’t need to go to the John Hay Library to appreciate Yoken’s correspondence. In 2022, he published *A History of Letters: Memorable Quotes from a Moribund Art*, with excerpts from 140 of his favorite letters. The author of eight other books, he says, “This book, my ninth, was a labor of love that I commenced years ago, and it’s possibly my swan song, although I do have enough

material to publish a second and third volume.” And Yoken has done just that: in 2023 he brought out Volume II of *A History of Letters*, and he is now working on Volume III.

Yoken himself has an impressive résumé. As well as being an author, he was a longtime professor at UMass Dartmouth and holds the title of Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature from the university. In 2018 he was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal and so also has the title of *Officier dans l’Ordre des Palmes académiques*. He no doubt has plenty of wisdom and knowledge to impart to anyone curious enough to ask.

You could write him a letter.

OVERHEARD

Art Matters

In late August, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security posted an image of a 19th-century painting titled *American Progress* to its X social media account. The artwork, by a German painter named John Gast, depicts a scene of American pioneers advancing westward, while Native Americans and herds of buffalo flee the scene. Accompanying text states: “A Heritage to be proud of, a Homeland worth Defending.”

In a *New York Times* story, “Promoting a Particular View of America,” Middlebury’s James Chase Sanchez, an associate professor of writing and rhetoric, is quoted.

“Using this painting to promote a defense of ‘heritage’ and ‘homeland,’ both of which are dog whistle terms, asks the audience to interpret who is ‘scurrying’ away from the Trump administration and whose heritage matters.”



ON THE AIR

Words & Music

NPR dropped in on a German for Singers class designed to give language students an edge when competing for roles in German-language operas.

If you happened to be listening to National Public Radio’s *Weekend Edition* on a Sunday morning in mid-August, you might have heard a story about opera singers learning the German language; an enlightening exchange in the middle of the piece features an instructor and a group of singers discussing a particularly tricky pronunciation trap for nonnative speakers involving the umlaut (a mark of punctuation in the German language).

The back-and-forth is entirely in German, supplemented by the radio reporter’s explanation of what the subjects are talking about. (“Umlauts—those two dots over German vowels—are what he’s talking about. They’re tricky for those who aren’t fluent in German.”)

The story is a fun cultural piece demonstrating how budding opera singers are seeking to become more competitive in auditions in a country teeming with opera houses, nearly 100 in total. The singers and language learners are all participating in a program that is part of Middlebury’s summer German School; each student is enrolled in the seven-week immersion session and signs a pledge to speak (and sing) nothing but German during their time at Middlebury. (A special exemption was allowed for the students to speak English to the NPR reporter.)

Those enrolled in German for Singers attend lectures and master classes in German language and cultural instruction, as well as individual voice coaching sessions and collective tutorials and rehearsals. The NPR reporter, Nina Keck, sat in on one such rehearsal.

“At the end of the day, I know after this program that when I walk into an audition room with other Americans, or people from different countries than Germany, that my German is going to be so well tuned that I will have an advantage,” a student named Mitchell Widmer told Keck.

At the end of the summer session, the newly proficient German singers traveled to northern Germany to practice their craft in a performance of Mozart’s *Die verstellte Gärtnerin*.

The program’s director is Bettina Matthias, a professor of German and the director of the German School. Its music director is Stefan Rütter.

EDEL RODRIGUEZ

ON SCREEN

FACING FACTS

The producer of the documentary *Gone Guys* reflects on the very real struggles of today’s boys and young men.

Boys and young men are struggling. It’s time to talk about it.

That’s the premise of the new documentary *Gone Guys*, which was released this past summer by Well Told Films, the Vermont Community Foundation, and the Richard E. & Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation. Producer Lauren Appel Curry ’97 is the Tarrant Foundation’s executive director.

The film, which recently won the award for Best Documentary Film at the 2025 Vermont Film Festival and was featured at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Film Festival, is set in rural Vermont. Throughout its 45-minute run time, it explores what it calls the “quiet crisis” taking place in Vermont and all around the country: the increasing isolation and disengagement of boys and young men. The film reveals, both through personal, local stories and with national data, the downward trajectory of an entire generation. Boys and young men are increasingly failing academically, struggling with loneliness, suffering from substance use disorder, and dying by suicide.

Curry came to the Tarrant Foundation after graduating from Middlebury with a degree in political science and working seven years at a community foundation in Wyoming. There, she says, she “had the chance to see how philanthropy can address complex issues holistically.” Returning to Vermont with her husband, fellow Middlebury alum David Curry ’96, she became the director of the foundation in 2005 when it was launched by Vermont businessman Rich Tarrant and his wife, Deborah. Over the years, the Tarrant Foundation has funded both community grants and larger strategic initiatives, including a 15-year, \$12 million investment in Vermont’s K–12 education system.

GONE GUYS: COURTESY OF FILMMAKERS

This film, Curry says, was Rich Tarrant’s decision to take “one last big swing” (Tarrant died this past August). “Boys’ struggles in school had been on his mind since my job interview 20 years ago,” Curry says. “The data was showing worrying trends: declining male college enrollment, workforce drop-offs, and higher substance use, incarceration, and suicide rates.”

These trends had been noticed by others, most prominently author Richard V. Reeves. “Reeves’s book *Of Boys and Men* was pivotal in informing our decision to make a film. The book frames the issue not as either/or—whether we help boys or support girls through their very real struggles—but as something society can address while still supporting girls and women.” The foundation brought Reeves to Vermont for some very well-attended and meaningful public talks that shone a light on how much the conversation needed to be happening. “We realized we needed something bigger and more lasting. That’s when we decided to make a film.”

The subject matter of *Gone Guys* is sobering. At a recent screening of the film in Burlington, Vermont, the theater was filled with concerned-faced parents, educators, and community leaders, and a smattering of young men, some of whom had been featured in the film. As the audience watched cleverly animated statistics of alarming data—how the suicide rate among young men has increased by one-third in the last 10 years, that men make up 64 percent of those high school students whose GPAs are in the bottom 10 percent, that labor force participation of young men has decreased approximately 8 percent since 1960—an uncomfortable stillness settled in across the theater.

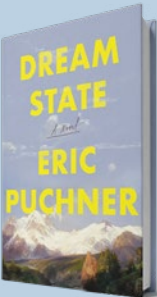
But the film was also beautiful, with sweeping shots of Vermont in late fall, of farms and rural schools and woods and fields. There were honest, touching, and ultimately hopeful stories of young men, educators, mentors, and researchers who are finding ways to change the story at the very local level, from Boy Scout troops to experiential learning and afterschool groups where boys can talk about how it feels to be a boy in 2025 and be vulnerable without fear.



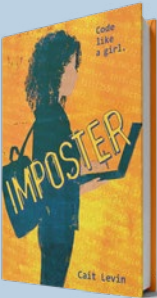
A still from *Gone Guys*, showing students participating in “The Kingdom Course,” learning science, PE, and language arts outside the classroom.

READING LIST

Alumni have been producing novels well worth putting on the bedside table. Among the many published recently are the following:



DREAM STATE
ERIC PUCHNER '92



IMPOSTER
CAIT LEVIN, MA ENGLISH '18



KAT'S GREEK SUMMER
MIMA TIPPER '82

KING OF BROADWAY
DAN ELISH '83

THE ROAD TO TENDER HEARTS
ANNIE HARTNETT, MA ENGLISH '11

HUNTER HEART'S RIDGE
SARAH STEWART TAYLOR '93



How the Bi Hall
greenhouse provides
space for teaching
research, and more
than a touch of serenity.

written by
Matthew Jennings



Green Peace



photos by
Brett Simison

illustration by
Lucy Engelman



P.

029

"When people find

the greenhouse, I often feel that it's serendipitous," says Patti Padua. "I like to think of it as sort of a secret garden, like, 'Who knew there was a greenhouse on the sixth floor of Bi Hall?'"

For the past 21 years, Padua has worked as the curator of Middlebury's greenhouse, which is, indeed, located near the top of Bi Hall on a floor otherwise dedicated to the Geography Department.

The greenhouse is both conservatory and research lab. One section features an impressive array of plant life; Padua likens it to a plant museum, one in which she has crafted different climate zones to accommodate everything from cacti and succulents to flora that require low-light conditions, or more esoteric items such as a redwood plant, a chocolate tree, and a plant known as Queen of the Night.

The research side of the greenhouse is used both as a staging area for plants that will be added to the conservatory and as a space for faculty and student research; a recent visit revealed an in-progress study of pollen production by squash plants.

"What makes me want to come in here every day, though, are these," Padua gestures to a stack of blue composition notebooks, more than a dozen that contain journal-like entries and doodles by visitors to the greenhouse over the years.

Perusing these diaries—and they do read like diaries—reveals what Padua calls the "true meaning of the place." For decades, visitors (mostly students) have found the greenhouse to be whatever they needed it to be: an oasis amid an expanse of stress, a place to study, a place to be vulnerable, a place to be grounded, a place that reminds one of home.

The collection of notebooks is every bit as valuable as the plants themselves, for they offer the lived experience of spending time in a relatively small, almost secret place on the sixth floor of Bi Hall.



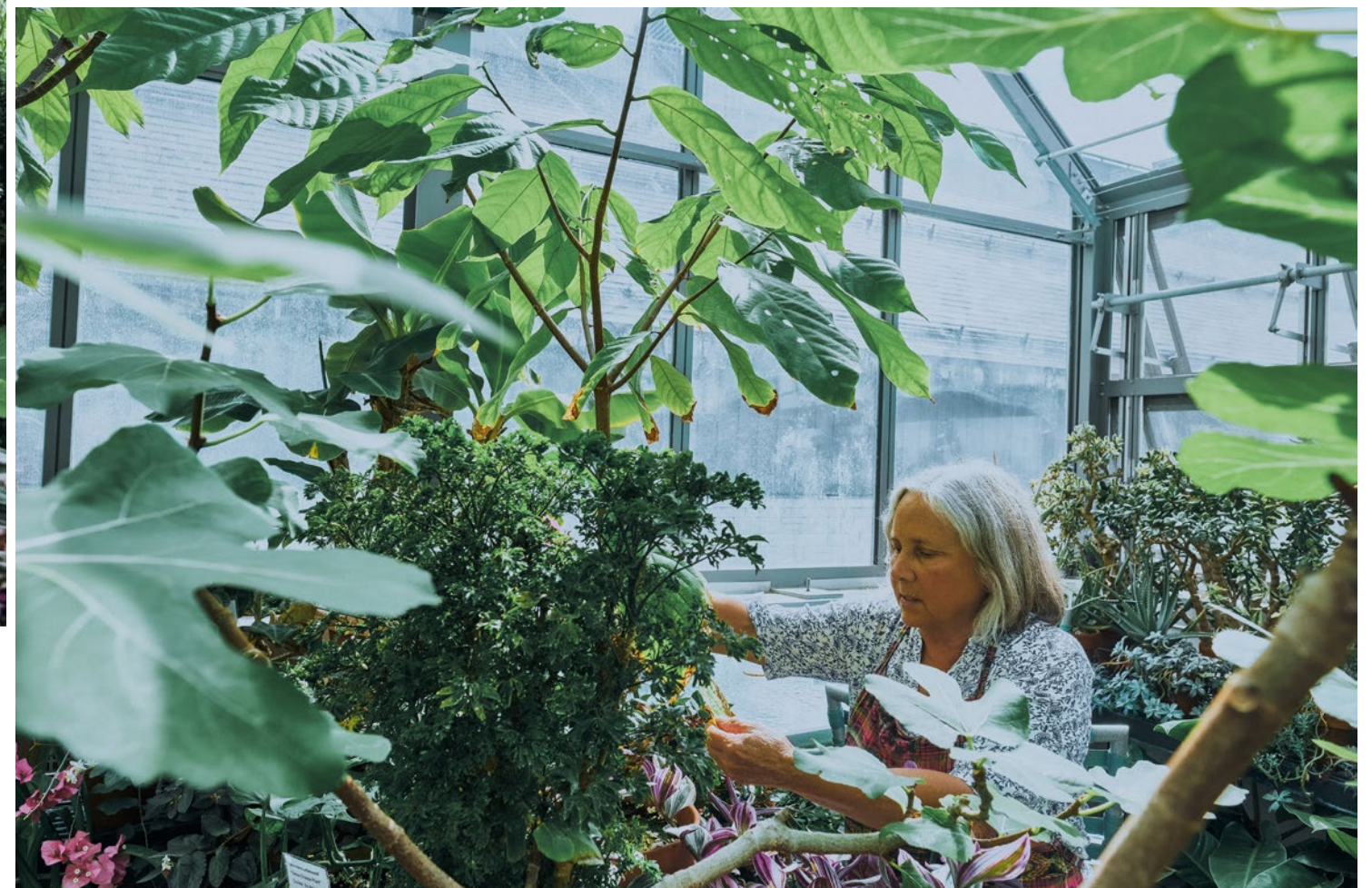
LEFT: A collection of cacti and succulents occupy the south side of the greenhouse, which receives the most sunlight.

ABOVE: Though the physical space is small—just 350 square feet or so—Padua has managed to create microclimates to accommodate a wide diversity of plant life.

RIGHT: Says Padua, "I would like students to walk in here and have their interest piqued in plants."



"I love
the greenhouse.
She is
mother.
I may have
fallen in love
here. Who knows?"



ABOVE AND OPPOSITE: Patty Padua has curated the Middlebury greenhouse for more than two decades. "When people find us up here, I like to think they've discovered a secret garden."

RIGHT AND OPPOSITE TOP: A plant called Mother of Thousands grows "her babies" in Padua's parlance, on the sides of its leaves, and when they fall off and scatter in the soil they propagate.

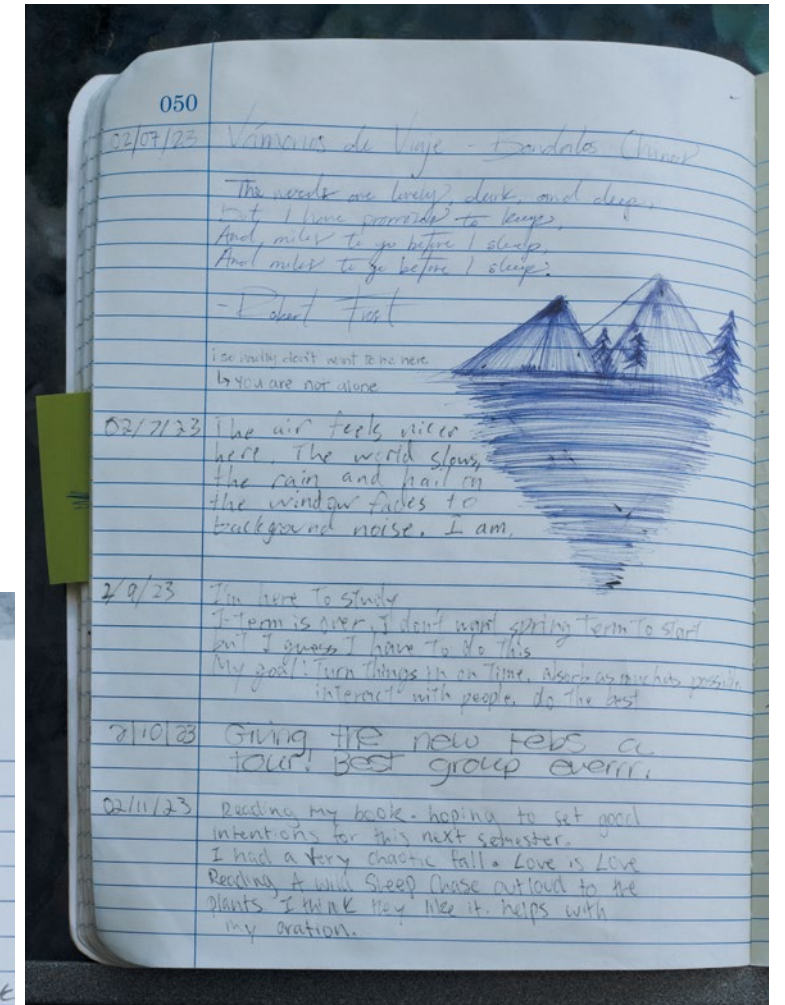
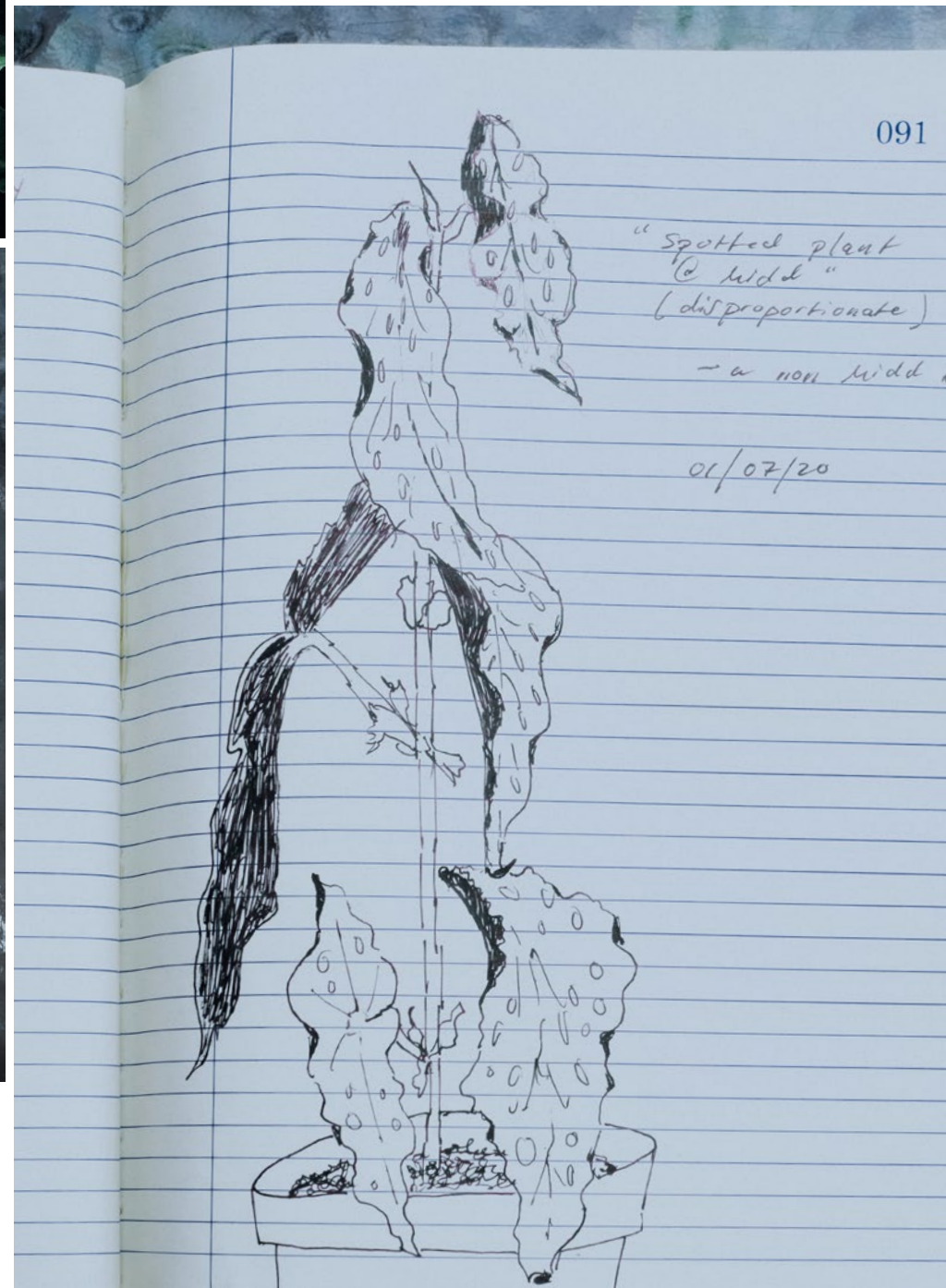
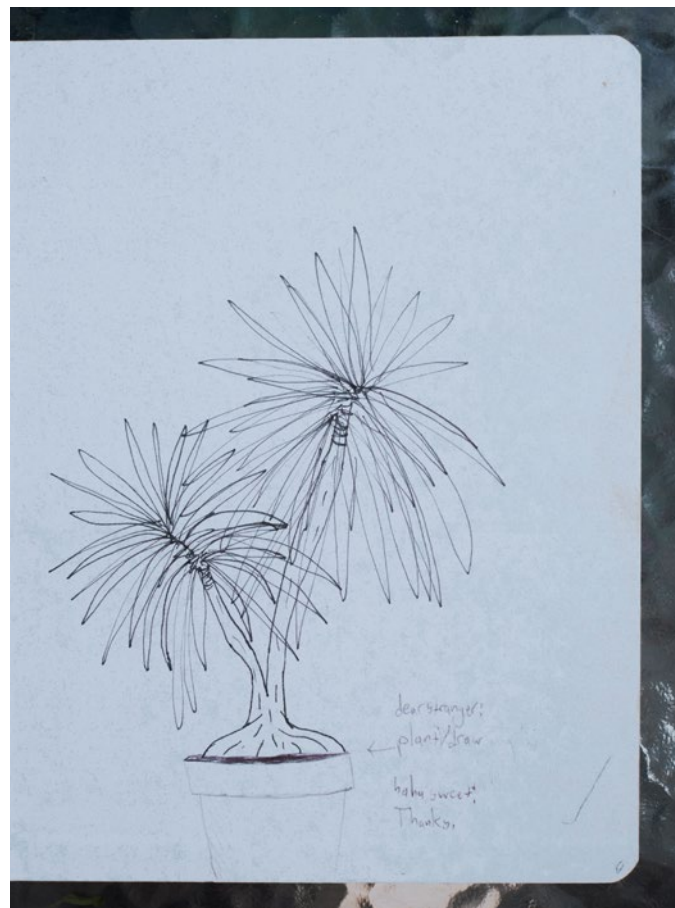




LEFT: A small table and chair occupy a corner of the greenhouse, a feature that has become a favorite study spot for those in the know.

BELOW AND RIGHT: The greenhouse logbooks now number in the dozens and are filled with observations, poetry, dialogue, doodles, and personal reflections—authored by the many students and visitors who have spent time in the space over the years. “People have poured out their thoughts, their uncensored feelings for years,” says Padua. “It’s what makes me want to come in every day.”

"The air feels
nicer here.
The world slows.
The rain and
hail on the
window
fades to background
noise. I am."



APPROACHING 100

The oldest writers' conference in America is nearing the century mark. A whimsical look at the people who have shaped the place.
(Key found on pp. 94–95.)

TEXT BY MATTHEW JENNINGS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANDREW RAE



60

40

20

10

DURING ITS nearly century-long run, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference has attracted an illustrious group of novelists, poets, essayists, biographers, and practitioners of narrative nonfiction. (See previous pages.) ■ How illustrious? ■ Bread Loafers have garnered nearly 400 awards of literary distinction—from 43 Pulitzer Prizes to five Nobel Prizes in Literature, as well as 38 National Book Awards and 60 prizes from the Academy of American Poets. Nineteen summer-time denizens of the "Mountain" have been named poet laureate of the United States; 25 are certified geniuses, as designated through fellowships and grants provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. And the list goes on. And no doubt, it will continue to grow.

NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE:
1980: Czesław Miłosz
1987: Joseph Brodsky
1990: Octavio Paz
1993: Toni Morrison
2020: Louise Glück



PULITZER PRIZE FOR NOVEL:
1923: Willa Cather, *One of Ours*
1966: Katherine Anne Porter, *Collected Stories*
1972: Wallace Stegner, *Angle of Repose*
1973: Eudora Welty, *The Optimist's Daughter*
1988: Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
2000: Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*
2011: Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*
2023: Hernan Diaz, *Trust*

FOR POETRY:
1922: Edwin Arlington Robinson, *Collected Poems*

1924: Robert Frost, *New Hampshire: A Poem with Notes and Grace Notes*
1929: Stephen Vincent Benet, *John Brown's Body*
1931: Robert Frost, *Collected Poems*
1933: Archibald MacLeish, *Conquistador*
1937: Robert Frost, *A Further Range*
1944: Stephen Vincent Benet, *Western Star*
1948: W. H. Auden, *The Age of Anxiety: A Baroque Eclogue*

1953: Archibald MacLeish, *Collected Poems, 1917-1952*
1954: Theodore Roethke, *The Waking: Poems*
1960: W. D. Snodgrass, *Heart's Needle*
1963: William Carlos Williams, *Pictures from Breughel and Other Poems*
1967: Anne Sexton, *Live or Die*
1968: Anthony Hecht, *The Hard Hours*
1973: Maxine Kumin, *Up Country: Poems of New England, New and Selected*

1978: Howard Nemerov, *Collected Poems*
1980: Donald Justice, *Selected Poems*
1983: Galway Kinnell, *Selected Poems*
1988: William Meredith, *Partial Accounts: New and Selected Poems*
1990: Charles Simic, *The World Doesn't End: Prose Poems*
1993: Louise Glück, *The Wild Iris*

1994: Yusef Komunyakaa, *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected*
1995: Philip Levine, *The Simple Truth*
1996: Jorie Graham, *The Dream of the Unified Field*

1999: Mark Strand, *Blizzard of One*
2000: C. K. Williams, *Repair and Gravel*
2003: Paul Muldoon, *Moy Sand*
2007: Natasha Trethewey, *Native Guard*
2012: Tracy K. Smith, *Life on Mars*
2015: Gregory Pardlo, *Digest*
2018: Frank Bidart, *Half-light: Collected Poems*
2019: Forrest Gander, *Be With*
2020: Jericho Brown, *The Tradition*
2021: Natalie Diaz, *Postcolonial Love Poem*
2023: Carl Phillips, *Then the War: And Selected Poems 2007-2020*

UNITED STATES POETS LAUREATE:
1952: William Carlos Williams
1958-59: Robert Frost
1961-63: Louis Untermeyer
1963-64: Howard Nemerov
1976-78: Robert Hayden
1978-80: William Meredith
1981-82: Maxine Kumin
1982-84: Anthony Hecht
1987-88: Richard Wilbur
1988-90: Howard Nemerov
1990-91: Mark Strand
1991-92: Joseph Brodsky
1997-00: Robert Pinsky
2003-04: Louise Glück
2006-07: Donald Hall
2007-08: Charles Simic
2011-12: Philip Levine
2012-14: Natasha Trethewey
2017-19: Tracy K. Smith



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IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT

—

IAN BAUCM

INTERVIEW BY MATTHEW JENNINGS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRETT SIMISON

IN

JULY, IAN BAUCOM began his tenure as the 18th president of Middlebury, assuming the post six months after his appointment in January. Previously the executive vice president, provost, and Robert C. Taylor Professor of English at the University of Virginia, Baucom succeeded Laurie Patton, who left Middlebury at the end of 2024 to become the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

On a late-September afternoon, Baucom sat down in his sun-dappled Old Chapel office for an extended conversation with magazine editor Matt Jennings. The two discussed Baucom's childhood in South Africa, poetry, the place of higher education in civic life, his professional path to Middlebury, and more.

This conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

May I start with a rather banal, yet important, question: How do you pronounce your last name?
[Chuckles]

Because when we were filming a video the other day, I heard you say your name, and my first thought was, "He pronounced his name incorrectly."
[Laughs]
BAW-kum.

I feel like everyone says BOW-kum, bow like bowing one's head.
No bowing . . . seriously. It's an unusual name, no one really knows how to say it. Honestly, I just prefer "Ian."

Much of your professional career has been spent at institutions larger than Middlebury—Yale, Duke, the University of Virginia—yet I heard you say recently that you realized that as you thought about being a president, you would want to be at a residential liberal arts institution. Why is that?

Yes, that's right. I have nothing but the highest admiration for those universities; they will always be a part of me, part of who I am, and they benefited me tremendously—as a student, as a teacher, as a scholar, as an administrator. To lead a university of that scale, however, you have at least four jobs: you're likely involved in running a major health system, which is hugely important work involving medical discovery and patient care. Second, you are likely to oversee a complex athletic enterprise that is extremely expensive, is going through challenging times, and demands a great deal of attention. Third, you are responsible for overseeing a major research enterprise, with half a billion dollars or more at stake in sponsored research; that landscape of discovery, innovation demands even more time and attention.
[Chuckles]

And then you've got responsibility for the work of education, liberal arts education, medical education, law students, engineering students.

You chuckled there before that fourth part.
There's a risk that the first thing becomes last.

And, likely, the aspect of higher education that got you started in the profession to begin with.
Exactly. What changed my life was being an undergraduate student, at Wake Forest, with a professor who cared about me. Now, it's very important to note—we *do* pursue research, excellently, at Middlebury. We *do* compete, fiercely, in intercollegiate athletics. We contribute to medical discovery and have influence on public policy. We do all of these things extremely well. But we do them at an institution where we know what comes first. I wanted that. I wanted to be part of that again. I wanted to be part of what comes first.

There are a number of terrific schools that are just what you described. So, what was it about Middlebury, specifically?
A blend of things. When I began my teaching career in the English department at Yale, some of my faculty colleagues would go off each summer to teach at Bread Loaf, and they would always come back speaking of this magical place; that was my first impression. And then there was Middlebury's reputation for a commitment to language education, and the depth involved. What that said to me was that Middlebury was a place that believes not just in developing, say, a repertoire of knowledge,

but really embedding oneself in a world that's new to you, a world of language, a world of art, a world of understanding the nature of economies or politics. That made an impression.

Not just what you're studying, but how you're studying.
There's a Middlebury sense of what it means to help students really learn deeply. I kept meeting Middlebury alums who I've worked with or in other situations, who would talk about their professors. That happens everywhere. But for these Middlebury people I would meet, it seemed so constant—there was a professor who had changed their life. That meant an enormous amount. Probably that more than anything. I just kept hearing that. There's an ethos here that's really special.

I'd love to delve into something now, which I've heard you speak about quite a bit, and that's your experience growing up in apartheid South Africa. Your parents were missionaries and ran adult literacy programs for Black mine workers, and you've said that this experience shaped your understanding of both the power of education to lift people and the necessity of education in building a democracy. Can we talk about that a little bit?
Yes, absolutely. You've named the two things. It's the power of education to open up individual lives. From a first

perspective, every moment of education is the education of the individual. Seeing what can become possible for that one person. The second part is that you simply cannot have a democracy without open access to education and without a citizenry that both individually and collectively have been given the ability to realize the promise of their lives, such as the promise of who they are, the capacities that are in all of us.
You just can't have a democratic culture without people being given the opportunity to understand the histories that produced them, the technologies around them, the crucial issues at the heart of any debate of public policy or understanding principle disagreements about constitutional law. There's just no democracy without it. Then, in South Africa, that wasn't abstract.

And you didn't learn this in theory ...
It was very real. The struggle for democracy and the struggle for the end of apartheid began in many places. It began with Black civic leaders. It began in churches, and temples, and synagogues. It began on the streets. It began in unions. It began with lawyers. And, so powerfully, it began with students and educators. It began with universities and high schools, with teachers, professors, and students working alongside community leaders, and many others. That was so really clear and powerful. Those two things, seeing people committing their lives to that work, including one of my parents whose work was not in higher education but in adult education, it framed my understanding of the common public good and the individual life-changing good.

In those years, how aware were you of the work they were doing? Was it something you all talked about a lot, or was it later that you came to appreciate it?
It was both. I was aware of what they were doing, but also I was six, seven, eight—when you're a kid, your parents are both the most fascinating figures in your life and they are also . . . adults.
[Laughs] Yet even at that age, I was aware that it was highly unusual that we would have Black guests to dinner. I knew that they were doing work that had some kind of significance, but I'm not sure I was highly reflective on it, certainly, at that age.

Of course.
That came later, gradually through adolescence as I understood more deeply what an aberration, an evil, apartheid was.

Which comes with growing and understanding. The puzzle pieces start to form and connect.
Exactly.

I'd like to read a quote of yours back to you: "There is an almost unspoken but strong social contract on the place of higher education within our common civic life. It's become unraveled."
You've done your homework.

[Laughs] My cinematic reveal is that you said this not this month or this year, but 10 years ago. And you were referencing the decade prior!
Yes—

Before you say more, I'd like to ask, first, where does this contract come from?
Great question. I would point to two moments, fairly far apart, though I'd argue that they are connected to each other. First, a tie between education and civic life is made very early on in American history in the founding documents. Just look at the Declaration ideal, that the nature of the American people is that we are a "we the people" held together by the pursuit of truth. *We hold these truths.*"

The founders understood that the revolution and the establishment of the American republic depended on several things: self-determination, the rule of law, self-governance among them. Yet Jefferson and Franklin had a common idea (which led to the founding of the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania, respectfully), and that was the role of universities in public life. They were both convinced that universities should have a public mission, which was quite different from the German models, the British models.
Yet . . .

I see where you are going with this.
This truth was powerful. It was powerfully

Undergraduate students and faculty held a poster session as part of inauguration festivities.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

In late October, President Baucom announced that Middlebury would, indeed, engage the community in a strategic planning initiative as alluded to in this conversation. Charged with determining "who we are and what, together, we are for," the planning process will focus on three overarching themes: Strengthening the Core, Connecting the Whole, and Meeting the Moment.

Jessica Holmes, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Global Health, and AJ Vasiliou, associate professor of chemistry, were selected to co-chair the effort, supported by a steering committee of 13 community members and a dozen working groups consisting of more than 100 faculty, staff, students, alumni, and town residents. The committee and working groups will engage intensively during winter term, with the goal of developing recommendations this spring for a new strategic plan that President Baucom will bring to the Board of Trustees for its discussion, review, and approval in May 2026.

“THE COMMON PURPOSE TO ME—AND I’LL BE REPEATING MYSELF BECAUSE IT’S WHAT I BELIEVE—IS THE UNFINISHED EXPERIMENT OF DEMOCRACY.”

articulated. But it wasn’t lived. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal . . .”

It was the great contradiction of the man and the document.

That’s right. You get that moment. The truth was spoken at an early moment, and it was denied by the same people who spoke it.

Which brings us to the second moment you referenced . . .

Yes, and it is gradual, painfully slow, but that is the eventual opening of higher education. And I think it appears in the mid-20th century with the next crucial moment to me, where the social contract becomes something on which a broad consensus is achieved, and that is the signing of the GI Bill.

That generation of soldiers comes home, and there’s a sense of a need to honor their service. There was a recognition that we were a nation coming out of the Second World War in a different place in the world, and we owed it to those who hadn’t had access before. That, to me, is the second moment in the modern writing of the social contract. We also have to recognize that it was primarily white men who benefited at first, but then it keeps expanding, through the civil rights movements, the women’s rights movements, LGBTQ movements.

Right.

You get to a point where the American dream and higher education become synonymous. Public universities, private universities, governmental actors at the state level, at the federal level, private philanthropies, business leaders, and entrepreneurs all agreed you can’t have a healthy economy or society without higher education. You can’t have the advance of scientific knowledge without

education. You can’t have the arts.

The social contract was written. And then it started to fray.

What caused this?

Over the decades from the late ’90s and early 2000s on, there have been real questions about the relationship between the cost of education and the increasing economic instability of lower-income and middle-income Americans. The idea that knowledge is a public good or education is a public good comes under stress, especially when state governments cut back on direct support. And then, ultimately, the value of education gets mainly economized. We start thinking about it almost only as “Is this a good investment?”

I think some of the broader cultural fracturing that we are seeing across our society comes from that moment. One of the dilemmas is that, because colleges and universities are in a slightly defensive posture, in making the economic argument for the utility of the investment, the “return on the investment,” we became too shy about talking about the democratic value proposition in addition to the economic value.

I think those forces begin to collide and strain. There’s more focus on the economic return. There’s less investment by state governments because they’re under financial pressure. There’s a loss, I think, in forgetting that we’re part of a project for the future of our democracy, which is neither a Republican nor a Democratic thing, neither a liberal nor a conservative thing.

We were charged and collectively inherited the task of this democratic experiment. If you lose some of that deep purpose of what we do, then it’s hard to hold a social contract together because the reasons that guide you through tough times can get obscured.

I realize I’m quoting you back to you quite a bit, but this leads me to something else you said when we first met. We were filming your Day One message to the community, and you said, “If we are to enter our future, not just with optimism, but with clear eyes, we’ll need the clear-eyed wisdom that comes from the full diversity of who we are and the call of a common purpose. It’s that call of a common purpose that speaks to the consequence of who we are.”

What is our common purpose, or are we still discovering it?

The common purpose to me—and I’ll be repeating myself because it’s what I believe—is the unfinished experiment of democracy. That is both a collective purpose and the idea that a healthy democracy is a healthy democracy for each individual.

It’s our common good, but it’s both. A democracy is one in which any person, regardless of where they began, can truly and firmly believe that they can go anywhere and that the depth and range of their human potential can be realized.

There is no obstacle.

There should be no obstacle. We individually have a civic life that we’re constantly trying to build together, and that’s the beauty, again, to me, of the Declaration ideal. That’s the beauty of the constitutional ideal. It’s why that language, “we, we, we,” is so resonant. Then you can, again, get non-abstract and really practical about it.

In what way?

Look around. We’re talking in the fall semester at Middlebury. On September 1, we welcomed young people from suburbs, small rural towns, cities. We welcomed students who were the first in their families to go to college. We welcomed students whose families have been at Middlebury for generations. We welcomed students from Arkansas and Alaska. We welcomed students from West Africa and Indonesia and France.

If you want to see the American idea embodied at Middlebury, there are two days a year where you can just show up and see the idea of America being brought into life. It’s move-in day on campus and it’s graduation.

Bookends of possibility . . .

The *promise* of possibility. And what excites me is what happens in between. Students all thrown into dorms together and going to the same dining halls together and going to class together. In four short years, the world will open up for them and change their lives forever.

We are speaking here in mid-fall,



very early in your first year, but you've already made a very big decision, a difficult decision, to recommend that Middlebury conclude residential graduate programs at the Middlebury Institute in Monterey. Can you give me some insight on how one approaches such a big decision?

I was talking with a friend about this—Peter Lange—so let me just attribute this framing to him: be deliberate and decisive. Since I took this job, I have been thinking deeply about the financial challenge in Monterey. I, and my team, studied the challenge from every conceivable angle, we weighed arguments, we studied data, evidence. We were thoughtful and deliberative. And then I had to make a decision, a recommendation to the board. Be deliberate, then be decisive.

The two.

Yes. Sometimes you can be decisive without thinking things through—because you want to look like a “decision maker”—and sometimes you can get so locked into deliberation that you never make a decision. It's a simple construct, but it's not easy. Inside every institutional decision are individual lives. In making the best decisions for an institution, even as they become clear, I have to constantly remember their real impact on individual human lives. Every president will face hard decisions; I want to do so deliberately, decisively, and humanly, with compassion for every individual and the long-term good of the institution in mind.

This leads me to a question about Middlebury, writ large. For some time, we've wrestled with the creative tension in defining who we are. What does that examination look like to you?

The first thing is that you need to know who you are at your core. We are all more than our core, of course, and the sum of who we are should be greater than any individual part. Yet your strength should emanate from your core. Our core is the College—the undergraduate program.

There's no Middlebury if you remove the College.

Our core is the College. Then, what makes us truly distinctive are all the other aspects of Middlebury that not only exist, but are connected—by an ethos, a way of living and learning, a pursuit of global understanding.

We need to be deliberate about these connections. How we connect who we are at our core, in our fall and spring semesters with our undergraduates in Vermont to the students who study at our sites around the world; to those graduate students and language learners who occupy these same Vermont classrooms and dining and residence halls in the summer in our amazing language schools; to those studying English at Bread Loaf.

The core is about clarity, but it's also understanding where your culture thrives. We thrive on innovation and have since our founding. It should all coalesce.

I've been around long enough that this sounds like the making of a strategic planning process to chart Middlebury's direction in the coming years.

[Chuckles] I think it's safe to say we will be engaging in strategic planning this year.*

I would love to talk a little bit about your family. I know we've talked about your parents and how important they were in your life and to your outlook on life. You have a large, beautiful family today, and you speak about them often. Tell me the role family plays in your life.

The most important thing about me is that I have the experience of someone who has been loved. The most important thing about my family is both that I love them and that I experience the love they give me. My sister sometimes says that we are an unlikely family.

In what way?

We are a blend of biology and adoption. We are a blend of race and ethnicity. We are across your standard political spectrums. Across the family, we are a blend of straight and gay, and born in many different continents. Maybe every family is unlikely in a way.

Again, it strikes me that your lived experience embodies how you think.

It does. I think of the world as this place, a place where long histories and trajectories come together and intersect and something new happens. There's my wife Wendy's story and the story of a Lutheran family in Richmond, Virginia. There's my story, my parents' story, which is a story of a Mennonite German-speaking mother from Canada and a first-generation college-educated boy from North Carolina—meeting and falling in love.

There's the story of two of our children where the subcontinental Indian diaspora comes to South Africa. Because my mom and dad happened to have taken me there when I was a child, and Wendy and I got married, and we had the chance of adoption, then that diaspora intersects with our lives in the amazingness of our first two children. There's the story of one of our children who became part of the family late in life, of Puerto Rico coming to Virginia, and then we became family. There's the story of a daughter who went to college and met her soulmate, her partner, and she's part of our family and we adore her too. There's a story of a child who is studying in Washington, D.C., and reveling in what it means to be interested in computer science and politics and also falling in love. There's a story of our youngest, 16 years old, who when told, “We're going to take you to Vermont,” said, “Okay!”

Each of those is a long arc, and I believe in those. Then you bring them together and something new happens.

I know family is family and work is work, but does this impact how you approach your job?

Absolutely. I sometimes say to parents, “When I see your kids, I see my kids. When I see my kids, I see your kids.” ■

THE
LIGHT
NING
ROUND Q&A

Favorite poet?
Seamus Heaney.

Is it true that when you were an undergrad studying contemporary poetry abroad in London, you wanted to write your final essay about Sting?
Yes.

And your professor said no?
Firmly.

And so you wrote about ...
Seamus Heaney.

OK. Back on track. First car?
VW Jetta.

Cultural work that changed your life?
William Wordsworth's *The Prelude*. I can explain more.

At the risk of unraveling the lightning round, please do!
The summer before I studied abroad in London, our professor in England asked us to read the entirety of *The Prelude* before we arrived. It's this long, romantic poem, and it takes weeks to carefully read. I was waiting tables in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and between shifts, I would go outside and sit and read. I began to realize this was what I wanted to do with my life.

Tell me something about your life that would surprise our readers?
I was a child actor in South Africa, appearing on television and in a theatrical performance of *On Golden Pond*.
Do you want a few others?

Absolutely.
In college, I pierced my ear with a safety pin. Not a good idea. Midd students, don't do that!

[Laughs]
And I asked Wendy to marry me five times before she said yes.

Did the reluctance have to do with the safety-pin thing?
You'd have to ask her.

Last question: What would I find on an Ian Baucom playlist on Spotify?
The Violent Femmes. Ziggy Marley. REM. Bongo Maffin, a South African kwaito group. U2.

No Sting?
[Laughs] Definitely. Add the Police to the list.

ESSAYS

REFLECTION FROM THE MIDDLEBURY



Alone Together

A Middlebury psychology professor flips the script on “the loneliness epidemic.”

BY VIRGINIA THOMAS

O

Over the past few years, experts have been sounding the alarm over how much time Americans spend alone.

Statistics show that we’re choosing to be solitary for more of our waking hours than ever before, tucked away at home rather than mingling in public. Increasing numbers of us are dining alone and traveling solo, and rates of living alone have nearly doubled in the past 50 years.

These trends coincided with the surgeon general’s 2023 declaration of a loneliness epidemic, leading to recent claims that the U.S. is living in an “antisocial century.”

Loneliness and isolation are indeed social problems that warrant serious attention, especially since chronic states of loneliness are linked with poor outcomes such as depression and shortened lifespans.

But there is another side to this story, one that deserves a closer look. For some people, the shift toward aloneness represents a desire for what researchers call “positive solitude,” a state that is associated with well-being, not loneliness.

As a psychologist, I’ve spent the past decade researching why people like to be alone—and spending a fair amount of time there myself—so I’m deeply familiar with the joys of solitude. My findings join a host of others that have documented

a long list of benefits gained when we choose to spend time by ourselves, ranging from opportunities to recharge our batteries and experience personal growth to making time to connect with our emotions and our creativity.

So it makes sense to me why people live alone as soon as their financial circumstances allow, and when asked why they prefer to dine solo, people say simply, “I want more me time.”

It’s also why I’m not surprised that a 2024 national survey found that 56 percent of Americans considered alone time essential for their mental health. Or that Costco is now selling “solitude sheds” where for around \$2,000 you can buy yourself some peace and quiet.

It’s clear there is a desire, and a market, for solitude right now in American culture. But why does this side of the story often get lost amid the warnings about social isolation?

I suspect it has to do with a collective anxiety about being alone.

This anxiety stems in large part from our culture’s negative view of solitude. In this type of thinking, the desire to be alone is seen as unnatural and unhealthy, something to be pitied or feared rather than valued or encouraged.

This isn’t just my own observation. A study published in February 2025 found that U.S. news headlines are 10 times more likely to frame being alone negatively than positively. This type of bias shapes people’s beliefs, with studies showing that adults and children alike have clear judgments about when it is—and, importantly, when it is not—acceptable for their peers to be alone.

This makes sense given that American culture holds up extroversion as the ideal—indeed as the basis for what’s normal. The hallmarks of extroverts include being sociable and assertive, as well as expressing more positive emotions and seeking more stimulation than the opposite personality—the more reserved and risk-averse introverts. Even though not all Americans are extroverts, most of us have been conditioned to cultivate that trait, and those who do reap social and professional rewards. In this cultural milieu, preferring to be alone carries stigma.

But the desire for solitude is not pathological, and it’s not just for introverts. Nor does it automatically spell social isolation and a lonely life. In fact, the data doesn’t fully support current fears of a loneliness epidemic, something scholars and journalists have recently acknowledged.

In other words, although Americans are indeed spending more time alone than previous generations did, it’s not clear that we are actually getting lonelier. And despite our fears for the eldest members of our society, research shows that older adults are happier in solitude than the loneliness narrative would lead us to believe.

However, solitude’s benefits don’t automatically appear whenever we take a break from the social world. They arrive when we are truly alone—when we intentionally carve out the time and space to connect with ourselves—not when we are alone on our devices.

My research has found that solitude’s positive effects on well-being are far less likely to materialize if the majority of our alone time is spent staring at our screens, especially when we’re passively scrolling social media.

This is where I believe the collective anxiety is well placed,

especially the focus on young adults who are increasingly forgoing face-to-face social interaction in favor of a virtual life—and who may face significant distress as a result.

Social media is by definition social. It’s in the name. We cannot be truly alone when we’re on it. What’s more, it’s not the type of nourishing “me time” I suspect many people are longing for.

True solitude turns attention inward. It’s a time to slow down and reflect. A time to do as we please, not to please anyone else. A time to be emotionally available to ourselves, rather than to others. When we spend our solitude in these ways, the benefits accrue: we feel rested and rejuvenated, we gain clarity and emotional balance, we feel freer and more connected to ourselves.

But if we’re addicted to being busy, it can be hard to slow down. If we’re used to looking at our screens, it can be scary to look inside. And if we don’t have the skills to validate being alone as a normal and healthy human need, then we waste our alone time feeling guilty, weird, or selfish.

Americans choosing to spend more time alone is indeed a challenge to the cultural script, and the stigmatization of solitude can be difficult to change. Nevertheless, a small but growing body of research indicates that it is possible, and effective, to reframe the way we think about solitude.

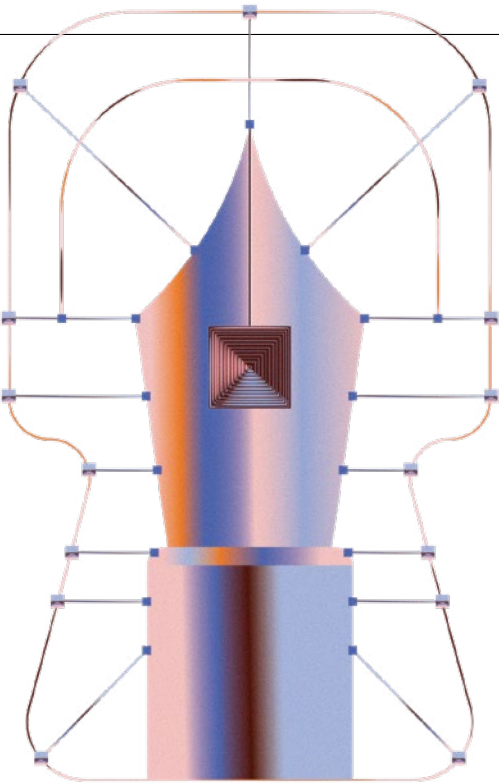
For example, viewing solitude as a beneficial experience rather than a lonely one has been shown to help alleviate negative feelings about being alone, even for the participants who were severely lonely. People who perceive their time alone as “full” rather than “empty” are more likely to experience their alone time as meaningful, using it for growth-oriented purposes such as self-reflection or spiritual connection.

Even something as simple as a linguistic shift—replacing “isolation” with “me time”—causes people to view their alone time more positively and likely affects how their friends and family view it as well.

It’s clear there is a desire, and a market, for solitude right now in American culture.

It is true that if we don’t have a community of close relationships to return to after being alone, solitude can lead to social isolation. But it’s also true that too much social interaction is taxing, and such overload negatively affects the quality of our relationships. The country’s recent gravitational pull toward more alone time may partially reflect a desire for more balance in a life that is too busy, too scheduled, and, yes, too social.

Just as connection with others is essential for our well-being, so is connection with ourselves. ■



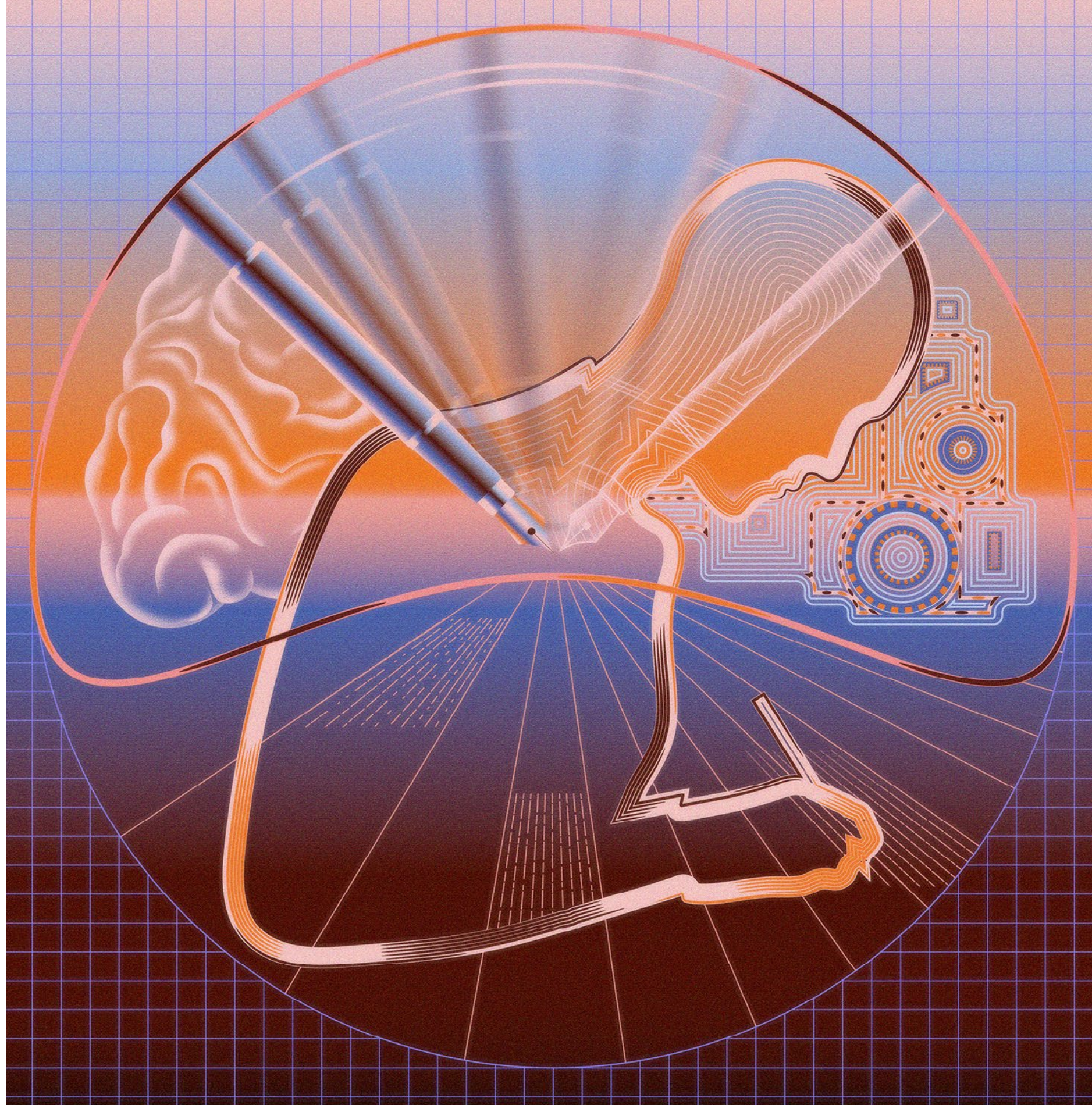
Writing & AI

I used to identify as a writer.
Now that’s changing.

BY PAUL BARNWELL

I used pen and paper during a short flight while drafting and brainstorming ideas for this essay, the gliding of the pen on my notebook paper going only so quickly, ideas swirling in my head faster than I could scribe. So analog, so quaint—most other passengers were glued to laptops and phones. It felt like an anachronistic, rebellious act. My young seatmate glanced over with intrigue as I scribbled.

For 17 years, I taught middle and high school English. I relished the challenge of helping students embrace the power of the written word. We worked on sentence variety, incorporating logos, pathos, and ethos, understanding potential audience needs, and countless other nuances. The challenge was



immense. ChatGPT had just emerged when I permanently left the classroom in 2022.

I also blogged and wrote for publication on a fairly regular schedule during most of my teaching career. I read widely, attempting to distill ideas and make sense of the world. If you asked me what I did, I'd inevitably respond that I'm a teacher and a *writer*. It was central to my identity. Writing offered hours of contemplation, the forging of my pedagogy and personal ethics, and more. I now can't imagine going through this period of my life without writing.

If nothing else, embracing the writing process requires (or used to) critical thinking, patience, and persistence. Now, it can entail a few mouse clicks, entering the right prompts, and perhaps a few tweaks of AI-generated material. Have AI create a list of ideas for an article? Check. Draft marketing emails? Easy. Write an 850-word op-ed about why the average person won't need to become a well-rounded writer? For sure. (I asked ChatGPT to do just this, and the response was clear and reasonably compelling.)

A recent survey of 1,000 young knowledge workers conducted by Google Workspace and the Harris Poll indicated that 82 percent are already using AI. A vast majority of those respondents have used AI tools for tasks like drafting and writing challenging emails, striking the right tone in their writing, and overcoming language barriers. Surely, there are benefits to the automation of rote tasks, note-taking, and other work demands. It seems to me, however, that a seismic shift is occurring. If young, highly educated workers are embracing and increasingly using AI for the writing process, then who wouldn't? What does it even *mean* to be a writer in the age of AI?

Are we entering an era where the average citizen won't have any *need* to write? Or how many people will identify as or want to become writers, with the process becoming democratized and instantaneous? How many will still relish the challenge of crafting a lengthy sentence, full of meaning, with possibilities of diction, rhythm, punctuation, and more at their fingertips, when AI can generate well-constructed prose in a fraction of the time spent?

Teaching as smartphones emerged, then became ubiquitous in schools, was brutal. I taught in schools without strict smartphone usage policies, which led to a constant battle for attention, tension between teachers and students due to varying norms and rules from classroom to classroom, and, more egregiously, increased cyberbullying and social media stunts. Nonetheless, some teachers embraced smartphones' computing and creative power. I became a skeptic; I spent time ruminating and writing about how this technology was changing teaching and learning, attention spans, and conversation.

Now, reporting from *The New York Times* and other outlets indicates significant smartphone pushback from school districts as they try to put the proverbial genie back in the bottle. They're smart to do so, I think, as the pros outweigh the negatives when it comes to teaching and learning. It will be fascinating to observe how school systems, from K-12 to higher education, approach integrating or pushing back on the use of AI tools in learning. I do wonder how I'd approach my job as an English teacher if I were still teaching. I'll let current educators figure this out.

If nothing else, embracing the writing process requires (or used to) critical thinking, patience, and persistence.

I'm now working primarily as a handyman, but I do write for publication from time to time. If you ask me now what I do, I say I'm a handyman but I also do some writing on the side. I'm trying to convince myself that I'm still a writer—that it's still possible to come up with original ideas in a time when generative AI tools create unrelenting streams of communication, can write whole novels or screenplays in seconds or minutes, and mimic the great works of literary masters.

Writing this piece feels like a small win. From yesterday's flight and notebook musings to drafting, revising, and editing, I know there's still value in grappling with ideas and writing in the age of AI. I don't write as much for myself anymore, but perhaps I should.

I did, however, run this essay draft through ChatGPT to check for excessive passive voice and note any grammatical missteps. It helped revise some sentences and noted some other errors. For that, I'm cautiously hopeful that there's a path forward for young people to find a balance between the valuable—and rewarding—work that writing entails and the promise of generative AI. ■

How Aristotle Gave Me Jaylight Savings

It came from his theories of rhetoric and habit.

BY JAY HEINRICHS '77

In my next book, I tell how I embarked on a yearlong experiment to establish a godlike physique—assuming one of the older, less-fit gods.

Before I could establish an exercise habit, I faced a huge obstacle: time. I thought, *If only I could conjure an hour, magically creating a 25-hour day, then I would have a window for a daily workout.* Perhaps a quantum physicist could pull this off, but I needed a different technique. I realized that the least productive hour of my day was the last one. The hour before bed belonged to the television, streaming movies. What if I chopped off that hour and grafted it onto the beginning of the next day?

To put it simply, I would go to bed an hour earlier and wake up an hour early. And I thought, *That sucks.* Sacrifice an hour of relaxation to get up before dawn? Did I have the Aristotelian courage to actually accomplish that? No, I did not. So I practiced a technique I had honed from many years of writing: I procrastinated.

I waited until the following autumn, when on one November day the United States government granted us an extra hour. On that day, Daylight Saving Time

turned to Standard Time, and seven o'clock in the morning magically became six. Being married to a morning person, I was already in the habit of getting up at six, so now my wakeup time became five. Boom, there was my extra hour.

I stuck to that hour, even when Daylight Savings came around the following spring. The next year, I used the Standard Time change to set my clock back yet another hour. I was now getting up at four every morning! Late television time turned into early me time—a peaceful period when the phone stayed silent, no one texted, and the dawning world was my oyster.

Not that I used it wisely; not yet. While I had succeeded in carving out 8 percent of the 24-hour cycle for exciting new habits, I remained unprepared to actually acquire those habits. The thought of doing anything useful at that godawful time of the ... can you even call four o'clock morning? Writing, working out, reading improving books, whatever, seemed daunting. I lacked the courage to attempt them.

Still, I had the time. Eventually, I got used to having nothing else to do that early. So I chose to spend those two hours reading. Eventually, I began spending the second hour doing an easy downloaded workout. Over the months, that workout turned into harder workouts. My reading hour became a writing hour. It's not that I pushed myself to do any of these things. I just got a little bored with the easy way. The writing and workouts seemed novel and therefore somewhat attractive.

Plus, each small accomplishment added to my courage. Just look: I had managed to get up two hours earlier than my already early wakeup time! What's more, I did it seven days a week, even Sundays! I was so proud of this feat that I declared my own time zone, Jaylight Savings. It was like any other time zone, and not an entirely crazy one.

What the Greenwich Observatory did for the world's time zones I did for my very own schedule. There was a downside, of course. Jaylight Savings would have been perfect if more people than just my wife and I had been in it. Friends learned not to invite us to any dinner that began after five p.m. Still, I was willing to embrace that particular suck.

Besides, the benefits of those extra hours kept adding

up. When it got light enough, I would head outside for brisk walks. The walks turned into runs, and the runs turned into trail runs, and eventually I was going up mountains in my home state of New Hampshire. That early in the morning, I was not tempted to eat junk, so I focused on nutrition drinks that wouldn't upset my stomach during workouts. I went from pushups and pullups to workouts using dumbbells, and I got stronger.

You could justifiably hate me for telling you this.

Those two hours of Jaylight Savings transformed into an hour of writing followed by an hour of working out, and the writing hour—sheer coffee-enabled hard work, no matter how I framed it—turned the workouts into playtime, something I actually looked forward to.

You could justifiably hate me for telling you this. But I don't mean this story to show what great courage and self-discipline I had. In fact, Jaylight Savings let me carve out those good-habit hours without much bravery or discipline. My cumulative habits simply ratcheted themselves up. ■



CLASS ACTS

NOTES, HAPPENINGS, AND MISSIVES FROM YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI

Thanks for the Memories

A student-curated exhibit explores the Middlebury experience through more than a century of undergrad scrapbooks

The note read, “Bill again—what a man!”

It was scrawled beneath a warning slip issued to Ingrid “Inki” Monk Stevenson ’44 on February 27, 1941, citing her for missing curfew by one minute. Inki’s note laid the blame on Bill, whoever he was—but the wording suggested she wasn’t too mad about it.

The warning was just one of many mementos that Inki glued to the pages of her Middlebury scrapbook, which became part of the Special Collections exhibit *Scrapped* this past spring. Displayed in Davis Family Library and curated by students Ambar Vasquez-Mitra ’25 and Yvette Fordjour ’26, the exhibit featured

scrapbook pages dating from the early 19th century to recent decades and holding everything from notes and invitations to report cards and photographs, and even a cigarette. Taken as a whole, the scrapbooks showed not only how much of campus life has changed from the 19th century to the 21st, but also how much has stayed the same.

Mikaela Taylor ’15, public services and outreach specialist for Special Collections, expressed gratitude for past students who, by preserving their ephemera, gave us a glimpse into the Middlebury experience over time. And she encouraged today’s students to do so as well. “It’s not the same as looking through a phone screen and taking a picture. Maybe consider saving some old junk to keep.”

But “old junk” is a relative term; scrapbooks, almost by definition, contain items saved not for their intrinsic value but for what they represent to the individuals who saved them. Take, for example, Inki Monk’s scrapbook. Whatever came of the young romance that not only made her miss curfew that night but also prompted her to preserve and annotate the resulting warning?

It turns out that her sweetheart—“What a man!”—was Bill Stevenson ’44. Reader, she married him. ■

Directors of the Middlebury Alumni Association (MAA)

Hannah Burnett ’10, *President*•Mohan Renganathan ’96, *Vice President*•David Ellis ’09, *Past President*
Catherine Blizzard ’20•Meg Roach Booth ’02, MA French ’03•Michael Chorske ’90•Kate Bailey French ’93
Casey Mahoney ’11, MANPTS ’12•John Myhre ’78•Jason Robart ’87•Nia Robinson ’19
Julisa Salas ’10•Laura Woodward Tufts ’03•Beth Dorion Wyer ’85

Ex Officio: Alanna Shanley ’99, Senior Associate Vice President for Engagement

1947

Nancy Ilgenfritz ’87 was at an Easter service in Sanborton, N.H., and met up with family friend **Bobbie Bates Lauterwasser**. Bobbie was looking forward to celebrating her 99th birthday. You can see a photo on page 59.

—Class Correspondent: Jean-
nette Atkins Louth (wmjalouth@comcast.net), 99 Depot Road West, West Harwich, MA 02671.

1948

If you have any news you’d like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 2 Court Street, Painter House, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

1949

Martha Everett sent the sad news that her mother, **Virginia Duffy McLoughlin**, passed away on August 19. Martha writes, “She began her Middlebury years just as World War II was ending, signaling a brighter future ahead. At the time, her name was Virginia Duffy, and she was known to her classmates as ‘Ginge.’ She earned a BA in ‘the arts,’ a new major at the time. She wrote in her autobiography for the 50th Reunion she attended, ‘I was overjoyed when Middlebury during our junior year instituted a major called the arts.’ At that Reunion, she visited the cabin of her favorite poet and longtime Bread Loaf School of English instructor, Robert Frost, whose poem ‘Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening’ she could recite from memory until the day

she died. During her time at Middlebury, she was a resident of le Château, where students spoke only French; she later got a chance to use that language skill when she visited Paris. A winter sports enthusiast, Virginia relished the cold climate of the Green Mountain State, which allowed her to ski and ice skate recreationally, though she did lament that the College did not at the time have a women’s ice hockey team. She was also a member of the College’s ski patrol and once participated in the rescue of a skier in distress. Virginia loved Middlebury College and Vermont; she used to say that if something was from Vermont, it must be good—especially cheddar cheese and maple syrup. Integral to that love was her admiration for nature and the beauty of the campus setting. The annual College calendar always hung by her desk. Many of the people she met at Middlebury became lifelong friends.

Virginia was a published author and editor with a specialty in family history. Her passion for history and preserving the past led to an adventure following in the footsteps of her pioneer ancestor along the Oregon Trail. Music played a central role in her life, from classical to Roy Orbison, and she once had the honor of playing a piano on which her favorite composer, Bela Bartok, had composed. She was married for 40 years to William McLoughlin, a professor of American history at Brown University, and lived in Providence for 70 years. Predeceased by her husband, she is survived by three daughters and two grandchildren.”

—Class Correspondents: Dixon Hemphill (dixonH999@gmail.com), 10910 Olm Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039; Rachel Adkins Platt (rplatt27@gmail.com), 1 Sinclair Dr., Apt. 131, Pittsford, NY 14534.

1950

If you have any news you’d like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 2 Court Street, Painter House, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

1951
REUNION CLASS

I hope my classmates are doing well. Our 75th Reunion will be June 5–7, 2026!

—Class Correspondent: Lee Webster
McArthur (bobleemca@gmail.com), 240 Springfield Ave., Ste. 1, Westfield, NJ 07090.

1952

—Class Correspondent: Barbara Cummiskey
Villet (villetb2@gmail.com), 208 Eagleville Rd., Shushan, NY 12873.

1953

It’s a miracle. Your class correspondent actually heard from two classmates in recent months. **Don Peach** wrote reminiscences of the late **Bob Haseltine**, his Midd roommate and lifelong friend. As for Don himself, a phone call found him “hanging in there” at a retirement home in Longview, Wash., and working on his autobiography. He is fortunate to have a daughter living nearby.

Alida Jackson Hannum sent a note thanking me for doing the class repping—thank you, Alida. I had forgotten that she spent just her freshman and senior years at Midd with two years at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. For many years RN Alida and doctor husband Tom have lived in Brigham City, Utah, where they tend to the local ranchers and cowboys who lack nearby medical facilities. Alida also is a Girl Scout leader. The Hannums have three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Good job.

Julie Morris Ogden ’86 sent the sad news that her father, **Irving Morris**, died on November 22, 2024. His years at Middlebury were important to him and he enjoyed being a part of Delta Upsilon and the football team, where he served as captain and was named twice to the All-Vermont Collegiate football squad for both offense and defense. Middlebury was also the reason he met his wife, Ellie (Hight) ’51, as mutual Midd friends

introduced them. They were married in 1963 and had two children, Julie and Jon. Irv was an avid golfer, skilled paddle tennis and tennis player, and exquisite skier. When asked where he might want memorial donations to go one day, he replied that he just wanted people to be nice to one another.

—Class Correspondent: Roger
May (rogermay931@gmail.com), 3 Chadwell Pl., Morristown, NJ 07960.

1954

We hope our classmates are doing well! We will have more news in the next issue. If you have any, please send it to us!

—Class Correspondents: Julie Howard Parker (julieparkerbonjour@gmail.com), 1929 Meadowbrook Rd., Altadena, CA 91001; Tom Ryan (trn@aol.com), 8580 Woodway Dr., Apt. 8-1104, Houston, TX 77063.

1955

Stu Bacon reports: “I’ve been biking over 10 years with a group of fellow seniors. Each ride has two stops, a restroom stop (after all, we are seniors) and a coffee stop. My days of being a caregiver ended when my wife of 63 years died. Fortunately, two of my three daughters live nearby so I see them regularly. Sean, my Kerry Blue Terrier, is a wonderful companion and makes me follow his schedule of feeding and walking.”

Scotty MacGregor Gillette says, “I gave Reunion a lot of thought and decided that I couldn’t be there. I would have had to fly to Burlington (usually have to change terminals in Detroit), rent a car, and drive to Middlebury. Then at Reunion there are lots of big groups and speeches—I am extremely deaf, and I can’t hear speakers or hear

in crowds, so I was very sorry to miss seeing our classmates and being on the campus. News here: Peter died of leukemia in July of 2024 just after his 90th birthday and a few days short of our 63rd wedding anniversary. I live in downtown Minneapolis in a senior building with lots of interesting programs offered, and I have many close friends here so I’m adjusting pretty well to living as a single person. I’m still designing and hooking rugs, playing bridge, going to movies and plays, exercising, going to our cabin on Lake Superior, and helping ailing friends. All three of our daughters and their families live in Minneapolis so I see them often. Basically, I’ve been very lucky in my life, and I consider myself a happy camper.”

Roy Craig called from Boulder, Colo., and said he wouldn’t make it to Reunion as he just doesn’t travel these days. But he sounded upbeat, and said he Zooms in on Hamilton Hall lectures held in Massachusetts.



Emily Ernst Branscome writes, “Being reminded of our 70th Reunion made me enjoy remembering our 50th Reunion, which my late husband Bill and I attended. We both so loved the gathering one evening in a Forest Hall lounge where Bill introduced all present to bluegrass with his guitar and singing. And I tried to accompany him with my keyboard. At age 91 I can still enjoy reminiscing about that memorable

event! And I am happy to say that I still play my piano every day and especially love old songs with great harmonies that I can do ‘by ear.’ Thanks to all for keeping in touch.”

Polly Longenecker Slade-McCurley says, “Thanks, John, for staying in touch. I still live in Maine; I love the lakes and mountains and winter snows. This past winter I made baby quilts for my first great-grandchild. I still go to exercise class and water aerobics and travel to see my son, Alex, and daughter, Inga, on the West Coast as well as son Eric in Baltimore. I love the book club and garden club.”

Alan Gould always keeps in touch. He wasn’t back for Reunion Weekend but shared a poem and some relevant comments for the Reunion.

Jim Kennedy sent word that he wouldn’t make Reunion but was doing well. “I still ride my bike, fly-fish, go to the gym, and sing in my church choir. I am so thankful for my good health and my mind. I talked with **Bob Webb** a few months ago and he is doing okay.”

Here’s a voice out of the past! **Hal Freeman** writes, “Never expecting to live nine decades, I neglected a disciplined approach to learning how all this stuff works. Now I’m loaded with possessions that baffle me. On the other hand, I appreciate being an observer of world events since 1933. Significant changes in every area of the human experience. Some change comes gradually and predictably, others quite the opposite. What would Waldo Hendricks be teaching in his Contemporary Civilization class today?”

As for me (**John**), I can report that I’m in reasonably good health and enjoying my many blessings. I do more writing than drawing these days but still act as an architectural consultant with residential projects. My book, *A Knickerbocker Legacy*, was recently published—an updated 50th anniversary edition of my first published book. After 20-plus years, we did not make it to Ireland this past year to attend the International Folk Song and Ballad Seminar in Donegal. However, I continue to cohost a monthly Traditional Song Night here in South Kent, Conn. We spend time with our various children and grandchildren. Ian ’79 was here from Scotland recently,

Jennifer (Warren) ’83 lives in Santa Fe, but came east as well, and Hayden ’98 lives in Chatham, N.J., with three children—two teenagers and one 11-year-old. We get to see them often. Jamie lives in Annapolis—his daughter, Lilly, is at Dartmouth and is on the sailing team and Alex is a rising senior at Severn School and is also a competitive sailor. Liddy and I enjoyed seeing everyone at Reunion!

Ed Note: It is with great pleasure that we announce that **John Baker** was given the 2025 Outstanding Class Correspondent Award, established by Jean Seeler-Gifford ’60, at Reunion in June. His efforts over the years to keep his classmates connected with each other and the College are very much appreciated.

—Class Correspondent: John M.
Baker (bakerjmb8569@gmail.com), 76 Spooner Hill Rd., South Kent, CT 06785.

1956
REUNION CLASS

Wendy Buehr Murphy talks about her vacation home on Blueberry Island in Maine. “It’s off the grid with two acres of trees and moss, a bunch of boats and kayaks, and an ocean view.” The thought of her summers there sustains Wendy and her family for the rest of the year. Wendy is her town’s green energy czar, educating her neighbors on converting to energy-saving devices. She also participates in a monthly Zoom meeting that is devoted to a discussion of hot topics.

Don’t forget that our 70th Reunion is June 5–7, 2026!

—Class Correspondents: Joan Mackinnon Houghton (joanmhoughton@gmail.com), 18 Horizon Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850;

Simon Marchand (lsimonmarchand@gmail.com), 29 Montadale Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540.

1957

As we come closer to June 2027 (our 70th Reunion!), here are some updates from classmates in the first half of the alphabet.

Bill Burgess reports, “I lived near San Francisco and enjoyed deep water sailing along the coast as mate aboard my friend’s sloop—Point Reyes Seashore, Santa Barbara Channel Islands. I also volunteered on the ships at San Francisco Maritime Museum—a 1914 steam side-paddlewheel tug, *Eppeleton Hall*—and was a guest aboard the Coast Guard’s three-masted barque *Eagle* in June 1980 as part of Boston’s OpSail to St. Thomas in the Caribbean. Had a career as an insurance field claim investigator and retired from Mutual of New York Life in 1999. I have a son and daughter and two grown grandsons from an earlier marriage. My travels got me to Arlington, Texas, where I founded CERT with the fire dept; worked a few tornado and flood sites with UMCOR; helped found a street ministry; and logged in 10 years with Meals on Wheels. I met Patti at Trinity United Methodist Church, and we married in 2001. We built a cabin in nearby Clay County in 2003—tore away five acres and groomed meadows, cleared forest trails, and bulldozed a small pond and stocked it with fish. We called it the *home place* with family reunions and holiday gatherings. In 2019 we downsized to a gated retirement community, Rolling Meadows, in Wichita Falls, Texas. We are limited in travels, but drive locally, if what I do on the road can be called driving!”

Sheldon Dean writes, “I have terminated my corporation, because I have not had any business in the past two years, so it made no sense to continue. I am still singing in the Maris Grove Fellowship Choir and the Maris Grove Chorus, and I will be in the Maris Grove Players’ musical comedy in November, written by residents here. I have had small parts in the past several years in their performances. Good fun for all. I am also participating in the Maris Grove Protestant Council which has a communion service for residents every month. I am still active in the ASTM technical committee that covers corrosion testing and have been an instructor in the course on electrochemical corrosion testing. I keep busy taking care of two cats and going to doctor visits. Anyone at our age who

claims to be healthy hasn’t been to the doctor lately (and may be suffering from dementia!)”

Ken Farrar says, “I am happily living most of the time in California with visits to my ‘real home’ on Cape Cod as well. My daughters and grandchildren are in California, and it is beautiful, so life is good! I go to yoga class once a week(!), a sure sign that I am Californian. I turned 90 last year and we had a gigantic party and lots of fun! I am enjoying *Reader’s Digest* and *National Geographic*. Mostly, though, I am enjoying watching the Bruins, the Celtics, the Red Sox, and the Patriots, as well as beating my daughters at cards! Every day is a new adventure! I never know where my daughter is going to drag me—hahaha! We have gone to see the redwoods in Muir Woods, the waterfalls at Yosemite, and those mystery stone walls, and we’ve taken many coastal drives along Highway 1—really something! In other happy news, I am soon to be a GREAT-grandfather! Hope all of you are happy and well!”

Ida Mae Johnson says she is being very practical trying to use Facebook Marketplace, which is a good site for small, no longer needed practical possessions (e.g., any need for an eight-cup yogurt maker?). She lives in Poultney, Vermont, where she must wait for the icy sidewalks to thaw so she can roam! “I do love my surroundings, though; half-acre backyard that has a mini-forest of tall firs, and out front, across the street, are more trees and a nice stream. However, I need a first-floor apartment and realize as much as I like this little land, it is not in a practical location for the future.”

Frankie Hall went to Paris in April on a Road Scholar trip and visited museums, Sainte-Chapelle, Sacre Coeur, and Notre

Dame Cathedral (newly restored to its premier condition using the same building materials as in the original construction). She enjoyed coffee at Café Le Procope (a favorite haunt of Voltaire, Hugo, Rousseau, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson) as well as fine French cuisine!

Since our last published class news, we are sad to report the deaths of **Suzanne Wilma Lucey** on 8/9/24; **Robert Ross** on 8/22/24; **Peter Howell** on 9/21/24; **Lee Hall Albem** on 10/14/24; **BJ Davis Gildehaus** on 10/30/24; **Alita Davis Pirkopf** on 11/26/24; and **Lois Guernsey Woolsey** on 12/20/24. They still live in our memories.

—*Class Correspondent: Marty Johnson Moore Wooldridge (wooldridgemartha5@gmail.com), 5305 River Crescent Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.*

1958

Duncan Evans ’91 sent the sad news that his mother, **Jane Coutant Ramsay**, passed away on July 29. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Middlebury, edited the yearbook, and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. She fondly recalled meeting lifelong friends at Middlebury, and walking into her freshman dorm room in Battell Hall for the first time. She was awarded the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship to continue her graduate studies at Harvard then received her PhD in Chinese language and literature at Yale. She went on to teach classical Chinese literature before becoming president of Mount Vernon College. She eventually retired after developing a network of study abroad programs for universities around the world as the executive director of the College Consortium for International Studies. After many years of living in Santa Barbara, Calif., traveling the world for adventure, and supporting the arts, she returned to Washington, D.C., where she was dedicated to swimming and walking every day, practicing yoga, composing haikus, gardening, and painting watercolors. She had a special gift of being able to connect with people, making those around her feel valued and important, and creating friendships. But when asked to reflect on her greatest accomplishments, she would undoubtedly say she was most proud of being a mother and grandmother. She is survived by children from her first marriage to James Evans ’57, Duncan ’91 and Elizabeth ’96, and three grandchildren, Genevieve, Graeme ’28, and Vivienne.

—*Class Correspondent: Susan Daniell Phillips (dhp1012@bellsouth.net), 725 Ninth Ave., Apt. 1106, Seattle, WA 98104.*

1959

Correspondent **Anne Martin Hartmann** reports: I’m sad to report that **Nancy Smoller Le Floch** died in February, in France. She was very active at Middlebury, and a member of the Undergraduate Association and Mortar Board. Nancy received a Fulbright Scholarship to France, where she met her husband, Jean-Pierre. They had three children, one of whom, Patrick, is a Middlebury graduate, Class of 1988. Nancy taught English in Clermont-Ferrand for years. In later life, she had Sheltie dogs, with whom she did agility training, winning a county-wide award.

Nancy McKnight Smith enjoyed a Smithsonian trip to southern Africa, visiting several countries. She reports that initially it seemed outside her comfort zone, but she loved the trip.

Ann Biggar Prewitt designed and developed the program for kids at the Museum of Natural History in NYC, and she continues as a volunteer in the Discovery Room at the museum.

Nancy Frame Sveden has hosted young Cape Cod baseball players for several years in the summer. This past year she attended the wedding of a 2022 player in Tampa, Fla. She says that “her boys” are the dearest, most respectful, delightful young men imaginable.

Pat Sherlock Davidson continues to live in her condo in Arlington, Mass. She still does some tutoring of students in precalculus and calculus. She has a new great-grandson!

Judy Webster Bauer and husband live in Seattle, Wash. They retired after working for many years at Lakeside School in Seattle. They live near the campus, so are able to participate in activities there. They love cooking, reading, and keeping in touch with family and friends.

Dottie Dever Frost lives in Bradenton, Fla., where she is very active. She enjoys exercise classes and pickleball. She also sings in the Bay Chorale and her church choir.

Carolyn Parks Behr took a Road Scholar trip to Mexico in February, focusing on Spanish colonial cities in central Mexico. The trip was excellent, the weather ideal, and accommodations in old palaces and convents were luxurious.

I (Anne) had a wonderful trip to New Zealand in February, traveling with both sons and visiting daughter Cassie ’91 who lives there with her family.

Please send me your information; it’s so nice to be in touch with classmates.

Correspondent **Andy Montgomery** reports: **Dick Krasker** wrote in the winter that life was going on in Fryeburg, Maine, despite the coldest winter in memory, with many days subzero, making the wind chill at 30 below. His Canada Goose parkas saved the day!

Bob and Polly Philbrick ’60 **Ray** returned to Naples last winter. (Dick, maybe you should do the same.) They met up with Ginny and **Bick Bicknell** for dinner. (Sadly, Bick let us know that Bob Ray died on August 16.)

KDRs were also saddened by the death of **Eric Lorentzen** last February.

I (Andy) organized another Midd mini-reunion with a beer/wine get-together hosted by Mary Jane and **Bill Hahn** at their home on Anna Maria Island, Fla., with guests Ginny and **Bick Bicknell**, **Dottie Dever Frost**, and **Dick Hofmann** as well as Joy and me. This event was followed by dinner at a great Italian restaurant in Cortez. Dick has limited travel this year to Long Island and Florida; Dottie loves Bradenton, Fla.; and Bill survived the hurricanes with limited damage. We were hoping to add Judi and **Roger Miller**, but when they arrived in Florida, they

had to spend time with contractors because of hurricane damage. Roger did report that his days as a ski patrol member and certified ski instructor have ended.

Pat and **Fred Swan** spent time on a Silver Seas cruise in the Bahamas for 12 days in March.

John Rich continues playing his keyboard and still does a few gigs. He also began doing vocals and completed a CD this past year.

Ren Curry gets the award for travel. He and his wife left the “nest” for five trips last year: a five-week trip to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam; hiking trips in the Northern California redwoods; our 65th Reunion with a side trip to DU brother **Dave Percival**’s home in Tenants Harbor, Maine; and lastly, a trip to visit family followed by a nine-day Christmas markets river cruise along the Danube from Vienna to Nuremburg.

Cornelia Wise Crisci ’91 sent the sad news that her father, **Paul Wise**, passed away in April 2025. “At Middlebury, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and played on the golf and hockey teams. He was living in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., after spending his retirement years in Savannah, Ga. He continued to play golf up until his death.” He is survived by his daughters, Torrey Wise Keeley ’88 and Cornelia ’91.

—*Class Correspondents: Anne Martin Hartmann (anne.hartmann01@gmail.com), 3 Cummings Rd., Unit 1038, Hanover, N.H. 03755; Andy Montgomery (joyandym@aol.com), 8910 Holloway Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347.*

1960

I am still looking for someone to join me as a class correspondent. Please let me know if you are interested!

—*Class Correspondent: Nancy Mumford Mulvey (nandonmulv@gmail.com), 104 High Plain Rd., Andover, MA 01810.*

1961 REUNION CLASS

For the first time ever I’m awarding stars to a Class of 1961 member for writing about founding and directing Harbor Watch in Connecticut on Long Island Sound. **Dick Harris** started the citizens’ action group to

improve water quality in 1986. He thought it was a good time to retire from it at the end of 2014. That lasted four months until Copps Island Oysters, the local and largest oyster company, offered him a position as a water quality specialist. Dick’s former career was 27 years with Shell Oil as a district manager. Dick has agreed to send you a copy of his entire letter if you send your email address to info@eastnorwalkblue.org.

Dario Quiros has graciously sent out our requests for news for many years. We all owe him a big thank you for that. He and his family spent last winter in Georgia, where they have become residents. He reports that his family is doing well, and the grandkids are approaching college age. Dario is looking forward to our 65th Reunion. Like many of us, he’s finding it hard to believe how quickly it’s come.

Sandy Anderson Bolton says she had “crazy wonderful months of travel, music, and family fun” last winter in Costa Rica and San Diego. She’s no longer snow skiing so she “skis the beach” and enjoys concerts and restaurants. This past summer she spent a family week at Lake Sunapee and eight weeks at the Aspen Music Festival, where she tends the kiosk at the music tent.

John Harris writes that he and wife Koko (Hart) ’63 celebrated their 62nd anniversary on March 10. He adds it’s been “a good Middlebury marriage.” Both volunteered at Saddleback ski area as hosts again last winter. They ski there with three generations of Harrisese. In June they again participated in the Great Race with their 1931 REO reproduction Indianapolis race car. This year the rally was from St. Paul, Minn., to Irmo, S.C.

The College has learned of the deaths of four class members: **Helen Kay, J. Leeson “Lee” Leonard**, and **Peter Thompson**, each in January 2025, and **Joseph Cusimano** in April. We send condolences to their families.

Don’t forget our 65th Reunion is June 5–7, 2026!

—*Class Correspondent: Janet S. Reed (jsreed2800@me.com), 929 W. Foster Ave., #2620, Chicago, IL 60640.*

1962

Barbie Burr Dechet spent some days skiing on snowy Mt. Hood this past winter but says she sticks to the blue and green trails now. She adds, “Since I have grandchildren in nearby Portland, Ore., I spend much time at sporting and musical events. Other grandchildren draw my husband and me to England at least once a year, then on to Germany to visit his relatives and hopefully take in an opera or two.”

Gordi Eaton writes, “When our son, Chris ’99, announced in the summer of 2018 that he and his wife, Eliza (Cameron) ’05.5, and three kids were moving from Middlebury to Hood River, Ore., it took Karen and me about 10 seconds to decide to make the same move. It was a crazy time for a few months, but we got it done and we love it here. Two big differences as regards weather from Vermont—the winters are not as severe nor as long and the humidity is much lower. Karen is from Wyoming and by living here, we are only a day’s drive from Jackson. It’s nice being closer to her family.

People ask what I do, and I say I run a nonprofit. They are always eager to know the details of the nonprofit. I explain that it is essentially an Uber service with a negative cash flow. This produces a frown, along with a confused look. We are grandparents who take three very active grandkids to games, or to practice—never in the same place, never at the same time, and all over this northwest part of Oregon. We love it and it is never dull.”

Carrie Kittell Hunt says, “Since moving to Fayetteville, N.Y., 12 years ago, my husband, John, and I have been taking an art class at a local senior center, which hosts an annual art exhibit featuring class members’ works. We also participate weekly in an intermediate

level tai chi class at another local senior center. About three years ago, I created a small dance troupe for the Fayetteville United Methodist Church, where we are members. The troupe performs to selected hymns throughout the year.”

Liza Dunphy Fischer shares, “I am blessed to still be healthy and energetic. I have traveled many places this last year, including New Zealand as well as South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Nimibia. I am still in my own home in Iowa City, living close to one of my daughters. One of my grandsons graduates from high school this year. I have a partner, David, who lives in Baltimore. We met two years ago on a Road Scholar trip. He is kind and smart and adventurous. We share similar interests, such as cooking and people watching and walking. We have been traveling together (New Zealand, New Mexico, Oregon, Joshua Tree, Africa). We also visit each other back and forth at home. This is working for both of us as we have roots and family in our separate homes. Anyone else have a similar relationship?”

Cindy Cooper Bracken took a European trip last September with her son and daughter-in-law. “It was a grand trip, and I so enjoyed watching Nicole and Mark take in the new sights. Mark went with the intention of eating his way through Europe, which he surely did, with relish. Sadly, Nicole and I went right along with him, so then I had to pay the price in diet and exercise. Italy saw us eating lots of pizza and drinking wine except at breakfast. In Switzerland we sampled fondue and raclette more than once, accompanied by their wines. Austria and Germany provided fine sausage, kraut, spaetzle, and beer. The weather was grand with only drizzle during a couple of nights, so we

felt very lucky. Speaking of luck, we were visiting a Swiss farm just when a local farmer was bringing his cows down from the high pasture, so we were able to observe that festivity—the parade and the decorated cows, a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a tourist as the timing had to be perfect. We were very pleased with our first experience with Grand Circle, a ‘cousin’ of Overseas Adventure Travel, both of which were recommended by my neighbor and great friend who travels a lot. I wasn’t sure how much I’d like a tour, as opposed to doing it ourselves, but it was fine, and I felt we got our dollars’ worth and had experiences we would not have had on our own. Since we had to get over the Alps from Italy to Switzerland it was wonderful to have an excellent driver to negotiate all the hairpin turns. I can’t imagine Mark having to make that drive. When he got off the bus in Switzerland, he shook the driver’s hand and thanked him. Later, he said to me that he could have given him a hug!”

—Class Correspondents: Judy Bosworth Roësset (jbozroesset@aol.com), 8809 Mariscal Canyon Dr., Austin, TX 78759; Liza Dunphy Fischer (betsy@brentopalmer.com), 611 Oakland Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240.

1963
We thank **Janie Bachelder Johnson** and **Bruce Bailey** for their years of service as class correspondents! **Betty Ann Cooper Kane** has agreed to step up to help out with the 1963 class notes. Here is her first report:

All thoughts go out to **Kane Phelps**, who lost his house in the terrible Pacific Palisades fire in January. Happily, Kane reports that he and Dee were able to find a very suitable replacement home nearby.

Charles Buell keeps busy with the Osher@ Dartmouth courses for retirees and reports that he most recently taught a course for them on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, in which he played a minor role.

I (**Betty Ann**) and **Jan Brevoort Allen-Spencer** have had two occasions to get together in New York City, including attending the Concert for Ukraine and the Richard Tucker Foundation Gala, both at Carnegie Hall. Jan continues to sing with the New York Choral Society and is deeply involved in the League of Women Voters of Huntington, N.Y., on Long Island, as she has been for over 50 years. I get up to New York from Washington, D.C., regularly in the winter for the opera and to see my oldest grandson—and I get out of the Wash- ington heat in the summer at my vacation home in Harpswell, Maine.

The Class of 1963 Facebook page has been reactivated (two different versions have been combined) and it is a great place to post your news and photos and catch up on what everyone is doing and thinking. You can find it by a simple search on Facebook.

I’m sorry to report that we learned **Peter Cady** died October 8, 2024, **Arthur Huey** died on April 23, 2025, and **Jane Stevenson Fergus** died on April 26, 2025.

Correspondent **Chris White** reports: Vagaries of extreme weather, aging of mind and body, and COVID/virus interruptions have impaired classmate gathering efforts. These thought snapshots from classmates provide tableaux of lives well spent coupled with challenges:

Liam English (Middlebury, Vt.) thinks he has settled in “God’s Country” after postgrad- uate study, teaching, soaring preserving history (aviation museum), boat building, farming, and cruise dreaming, etc.

David Hanscom (Park City, Utah) is still focused on cross-country ski expertise in his family (including a grandson) as well as supervision of statewide races. In addition, David checks off hiking high-altitude mountain peaks on both East and West Coast ranges, while adding to his bird-watching list.

Neil Savage (Exeter, N.H.) finds aging a chal- lenge, but relishes continued interactions

with New Hampshire Girl Scout groups conducting environmen- tal studies and surveys.

Scott Low (Palm Beach, Fla.) still serves as a consultant helping CEOs in corporations sort through various future paths they encounter. Scott hopes the new president of Middlebury continues to successfully set forward-looking paths financially, educationally, and culturally.

I (**Chris**) (Bar Harbor, Maine) believe I have “come home” to a spot where, in youth, I shot squirrels and roamed the hills and shores of Mount Desert Island in Acadia National Park, a natural comfort zone—except during summer heavy traffic.

Bob Clarke (Longmeadow, Mass.) called to relate that he and his wife are healthy and have travelled extensively, most recently to Europe and Hawaii. He’s happily retired and proud that a nonprofit he established 20 years ago has enabled 32 public school districts in Mas- sachusetts and Connecticut to train 200+ teachers with specific approaches to teaching students with dyslexia. Bob continues to maintain contact with several classmates and hopes the new president preserves Middle- bury’s history.

In closing, I apologize for such scarce information. Nature of the beast. I sense the time has come for us all, like the folks who maintain Preservation Hall in New Orleans, to create a mindset dedicated to preserving Old Ironsides, the *Constitution*— perhaps by sharing discoveries via breaking bread with class- mates. Knock on doors in your travels.

—Class Correspondents: Betty Ann Cooper Kane (bettyannk- ane@gmail.com), 1185th NE

Apt. 400, Washington, D.C. 20002; Larry Ring (lwrsbr@msn.com), 5952 N. Via del Chiquiri, Tucson, AZ 85718-1380; Christopher J. White (crnbrycst@gmail.com), 25 Village Inn Rd., Apt. 102, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.

1964
Correspondent **Dori Ells Jurgenson** reports: Several people wrote in response to my comment that we are planning a trip to Australia, saying they had been there, but I especially note **Carol “Ting” Cox Heath**, who said she lived in Tasmania for two years and Brisbane for 10! Would love to hear about those years! She is now in Fort Myers, Fla. Another visitor to Australia was **Jean Blanchette St. Clair**, who visited the country, as well as Singapore and Bali, with her husband in fall 2023.

Bob Seeley sent a note after he and **Roger Simon** and their dates saw *Hadestown* at the Walter Kerr Theater on Broadway. Both the play and music were written by Anais Mitch- ell ’04. He says, “It is the story of Orpheus and Euridice in an unusual setting and treatment and is one ‘hell’ of a production.”

Roger Simon continues his very active life and career and says he is enjoying being a grandpa to three-year-old Jules! “I continue teaching and directing at my Simon Studio in NYC—now in its 47th year. And, professionally as an actor, I costar in our cur- rently streaming film noir series, *The Last Act*, which my son, Dan, directs and writes. As a new way of producing and marketing this series of 12 episodes, our first four short episodes are being streamed free @thelastact.series on Facebook, Insta- gram, YouTube, Threads, X. Or you can check it out at vimeo.com/manhattanfilmworks. Enjoy and please let us know what you think of it!”

Alice Taliak Imbur writes, “After the busy years of early marriage; raising children and watching them mature into married adults; our retirements; 10 years of offshore sailing; and 10 years of RVing across the entire North American continent, we are now at the comfortable stage of life where we have trav- eled enough to be satisfied with just slowing down! We are grateful for life and love as we experience them in our 80s. Best wishes to all!”

Tom Koch has been busy in retirement doing some writing, including a remembrance of

CELEBRATIONS



1. Nicha Rakpanichmanee '05 married Daniel Hitchcock (not pictured) on October 1, 2023, on Cumberland Island, Ga. Middlebury guests included Professor John Huddleston, the bride, Cara Lovell Arduengo '05, Naomi Cookson '05, and Jasmin Johnson '05.

2. Friends from the Class of 1969 had lunch together in Chatham, Mass.: Barbara Brennan Dooley, Roger Cummings, and Candy Syverson Cummings.

3. Nancy Ilgenfritz '87 met up with family friend Barbara “Bobbie” Bates Lauterwasser '47 in New Hampshire: Bobbie and Nancy.

4. A group of Middlebury friends had a mini-reunion in St. Gallen, Switzerland: Jasmin Johnson '05, Grulia Badescu '07, Naomi Haefner '07, and Alex Hunter '07.

5. While hiking in Maine, Cary Beckwith '81 ran into fellow Midd grads Andrew Michelson '19 and Giulia Park '19 and their friend, Vivian Graham. The four walked Knife Edge together to reach the summit of Mt. Katahdin: Andrew, Giulia, and Cary.

6. Andrew Theobald '15 and Karen Mardini celebrated their wedding in Manassas, Va., on November 5, 2023, with the Rev. Mia Benjamin Kano '13 officiating. Joining them (all '15 unless noted) were Carolyn Johnson, David Russell, Aaron Kano, Mia Kano '13, Eliza Margolin, Alec Drobac '16, Tana Sterrett Scott '65, the newlyweds, Rebecca Bayless Theobald '84, Elise Blette '16.5, Hannah Johnston Drobac, and Stephen Paolillo.

the D-Day invasion and a fun cookbook of both home and camp recipes.

Bill Kieffer continues to be active and says, “We had a great trip on Viking River Cruises last fall, from Budapest to Regensburg. Planning to do another from Basel to Nuremberg, with a few days in Prague. My skin cancer has become more of a challenge—about to start with infusions along with the chemo pill. I continue with my volunteer work for Mass General Brigham, sitting on their Institutional Review Board.”

Lans Hays had no news other than to say, “I am just another of those in the alum news notes that say they are still among the living!”

Julie Sage Day writes that she and **Ian Sanderson**, who she reconnected with at the 50th Reunion, continue to sail their 36-foot Catalina on the Chesapeake each summer. The boat is docked on Kent Island in Maryland, a little over an hour from Ian’s house in Falls Church, Va. “Last fall we sailed around Corfu, Greece, for a week with a group from the Pentagon Sailing Club (PSC). Our chartered boat was a 44-foot Bavaria. Our skipper was the club’s Commodore, and the crew were two of his friends, another PSC member, and ourselves. There were five boats and roughly 30 people in the flotilla. We had a blast stopping each night at various small towns for dinner with the group. I volunteer with PSC and write a monthly article about sailing with the club. Ian works on our boat, *Sally Forth*, a never-ending task as anyone who has ever owned a boat knows all too well!” Correspondent **Bob Baskin** reports: Unfortunately, we have lost another classmate, **Marvin Kelley**. Marv earned his BA

in music at Middlebury. He used his tenor voice to enhance the Middlebury choir and the Dissipated Eight. On the lacrosse team he excelled as our goalie. He met wife Carol (Haas) ‘65 his sophomore year and married her a year after graduating. Marv went on to earn his MA at NYU and worked at Queens College until being called to active duty in 1966. Having completed ROTC, he went on to officer training school. He pursued his educational career at a variety of schools. Marv stayed productive in retirement by volunteering at United Way, the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, and Lifepath’s Rides for Health, in addition to Northfield Mount Hermon, where he had worked. Marv was respected by colleagues for his work ethic, his forthrightness, kindness, and dry wit. He is survived by Carol, his wife of 59 years, and daughters Dana and Rhian and their families. He demonstrated his strong sense of duty to serving his community, having touched many lives. He will be missed.

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of **Peter Ballou**. He packed a lot into his 82 years, including hard work, and love for family, friends, and cats. He was passionate about sports, skiing, boating, swimming, politics, and music, especially opera. After graduating from Middlebury, he obtained his law degree at the University of Maine School of Law and went on to a long career at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. Peter is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lyn (Clemmer) ‘66, and children Will and Carla. Of note, Peter believed in the promise of our country. In 1963 he and his father attended the famous March on Washington to promote civil rights for African Americans. He never lost his commitment to equality and social justice.

Debby Crehan Andrews wrote this about Peter: “Over the past several years, my husband and I had become close friends with Peter and wife Lyn. We live near each other in Maine. Peter was an accomplished, graceful skier, and one of the serious pleasures of my own skiing was following him down the many trails at Sunday River and gathering afterwards at our home at the base of the mountain for a glass of wine (beer for Peter). We also spent intervals during Portland Symphony concerts discussing the performance with Lyn and Peter, who knew much more than

we did about the music and its best interpretation. He was well informed on a vast range of topics, witty, opinionated, and through it all, a consummate friend. We miss him dearly.”

—*Class Correspondents: Bob Baskin (robertbaskin@msn.com), 89 Joshua Trail, Madison, CT 06443; Dori Ells Jurgenson (dorothea.jurgenson@gmail.com), 106 Orchard Circle, Denver, IA 50622.*

1965

Thirty-five classmates returned to Middlebury for our 60th Reunion, bringing along spouses, partners, children, and grandchildren for a total of 53. More than 2,200 attended the weekend in all, making it the largest Reunion in the College’s history. **Norm** and **Bonnie Trompeter Lowe** did a superb job as co-chairs. **Peter Delfausse** and **Polly Moore Walters** wowed the Chapel audience at Convocation with reminiscences (prepared by **Tim Carey**) of our undergraduate days. And the memorial service was special as we remembered the 46 whom we’ve lost since our 50th Reunion. Other highlights included **Fran Love**’s return in a wheelchair, accompanied by his wife, Lorrie (Barstow) ‘66, his son, Graham (who came from Denver), and his granddaughter, Emma. We all competed to push Fran up Chapel Hill for Convocation. In other Reunion news, our College liaison, Lyn DeGraff, announced she’s retiring. Norm and Bonnie presented her with a beautiful flower bouquet at our dinner.

Barbara Zurer Pearson, a longtime member of the UMass Amherst faculty, has been inducted as a Lifetime Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). According to the AAAS,

she prides herself on having “one foot in humanities and one foot in science.” Two decades ago, she played an instrumental role in developing the groundbreaking Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation, which remains the best test for assessing diverse children’s language abilities. The AAAS recognized her for “distinguished contributions to applied linguistics, particularly for work encouraging bilingual development and facilitating bias-free assessment of language in children who speak minoritized varieties of English.”

Sadly, **Marshall Eddy** lost his wife, Jane, in May after 62 years of marriage, and in January, we lost **Barbara Beckley**, who attended Midd our freshman year before beginning a long, successful career in the theater in NYC and LA.

Bruce Haskell writes, “My wife of 59 years and I live four houses up the street from where I grew up here in Auburn, Maine. We have two children, five grandchildren, and four great-granddaughters, with another on the way.” He also sent a glowing tribute about **Ray Jones**, our first-year class president, who died in 2023. “Ray was kind, thoughtful, and a private person. He helped me with a couple of problems I was having unrelated to school. These problems seem insignificant now, but Ray was willing to listen and offer advice.”

—*Class Correspondents: R.W. “T” Tall Jr. (ahmic29@gmail.com), 204 Clark Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Polly Moore Walters (polly@frii.com), 100 Grandview Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.*

1966 REUNION CLASS

We have heard from several classmates in recent months. Many thanks to the contributors, and please remember your Midd friends really do care about your news and how you are thriving!

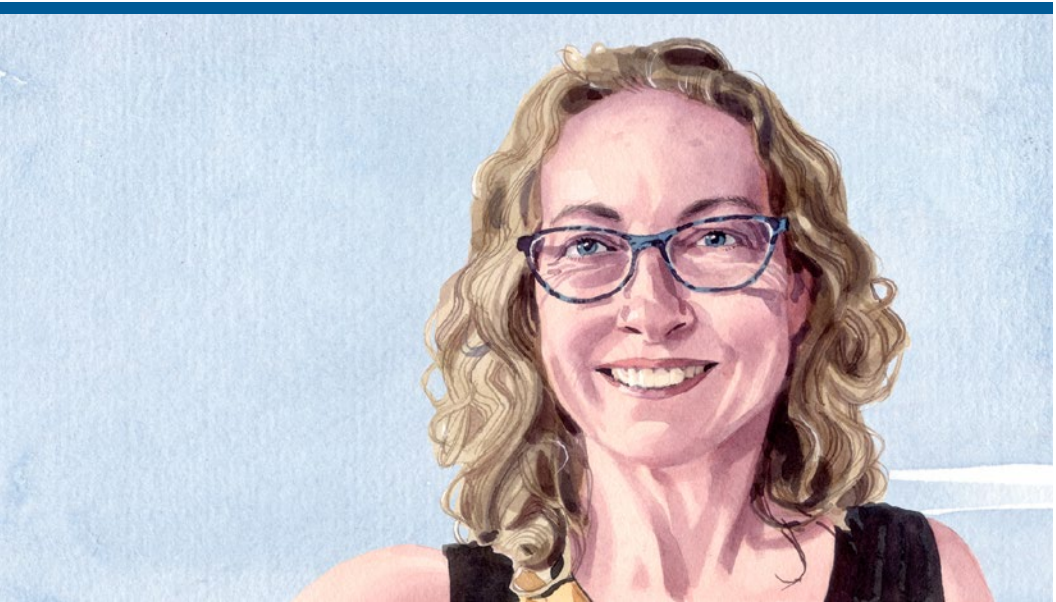
Jean Gear Lamont wrote she appreciates the class notes, and she has provided the following update. “I fully retired last July from Educators Collaborative, the firm I was a partner with for 15 years, assisting independent schools with executive searches, board governance, and mentoring. I have remained very active assisting the library on the island of North Haven, Maine,

with a capital campaign and fundraising for the Horizons @ Foote program at the school where I was a head. My husband, Nick, and I enjoy our nine grandchildren, ranging in age from 7 to 22, and we have resumed international travel, post-COVID (most recently a hiking trip to Greece).”

In one of those small-worlders, it turns out **Francine** was on the beach in nearby Pine Point, Scarborough, Maine, with her sister and cousin when **Prue** received this note from **Ken MacAuley**, who lives in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. “About five years ago I succumbed to the urge to put pen to paper and wrote a novel. This was in spite of a lack of any evidence that would indicate a talent in that direction. However, I have now completed my fourth book. The latest is titled *Two If By Sea*. It, surprise, surprise, is about the events leading up to the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The history is mostly accurate, but the dialogue between such characters as Paul Revere and John Hancock is a product of my imagination. I had a lot of fun with its creation, and if you are curious, it is available on Amazon.” Ken concluded by wishing us all well.

Debby Donaker Ludington’s husband, Ken, responded to our outreach note to Debby. He reported he and Debby live in a retirement community in suburban St. Louis. Debby and Ken have three adult children: “Cathy and husband Terry live nearby and have a son, Carson, who is a sophomore at the University of Missouri. John and wife Carly live in San Gabriel, Calif. They have two sons, Nicholas, who is a sophomore at Colorado State, and Drew, who is a high school senior. Melissa is a lawyer in Chicago.”

Al Magary responded to our request for some funny stories from undergrad days at Middlebury. He entitled his “Giddy Senior vs. the CIA.” Spring 1966: Graduation and Vietnam are both on the horizon. One of my roomies, **David Elliott**, is reading in the living room of our Gifford triple. A knock on the door but it doesn’t open in the same motion, so it’s obviously not a familiar in the dorm. Dave calls out, “Come in!” A voice through the door: “Is Magahrrry there?” Dave doesn’t want to converse through a closed door, so he goes and opens it. It’s a somewhat swarthy man in a suit and tie who speaks thickly. Dave says, “Al’s not here.” They discuss this briefly and the man says he’ll be back the next day at noon.



Saying Goodbye

Meg Storey Groves ‘85 dedicated herself to her alma mater for years.

On June 30, Meg Storey Groves ‘85, associate vice president for Alumni and Parent Programs, retired after 19 years at Middlebury. In this Q&A, she reflects on her time at the College. **MM:** After college you worked in banking and brand management and were a stay-at-home mom. What brought you back to work at your alma mater? **MSG:** As my youngest child got on the full-day kindergarten bus, I had the opportunity to look into the next stage of my career. I had been coming back for every Reunion since I had graduated, and at my 20th in 2005, I thought, “I’d really love to get back to Middlebury.” A new AVP position had been created in Advancement, and I applied for it. I had never really thought about alumni relations, but I loved Middlebury and the thought of it as a brand intrigued me because it really does stand for something. **MM:** Did you have any goals for the job? **MSG:** Because I hadn’t been in higher ed, I was eyes wide open, and the first year it was learning the rhythm of the work and the people and the potential and the opportunities. So, I didn’t go in saying, “What’s broken? Let me fix it.” I went in saying, “Wow, this is a lot, and this is cool.” There were a lot of traditions to build upon but also a chance to think about things differently. I loved the foundational work and then the room for creativity. **MM:** What are you most proud of in terms of taking advantage of that creativity? **MSG:** The number one thing I would say is the Faculty at Home series and the team that developed it

and supports it. Launched in April 2020, it was the coolest thing to come out of COVID for alumni engagement. Faculty had exciting scholarship to share but were feeling the restraints of the pandemic. We quickly formed a team to address that issue: we had faculty who volunteered to shine the spotlight on their colleagues; the Provost’s Office supported it, and Media Services was eager to support it; Advancement promoted it. We had hundreds of people showing up to hear 45-minute webinars on great topics by knowledgeable professors. We just completed our sixth season. **MM:** You also served as the ex officio liaison to the Middlebury Alumni Association board. **MSG:** That has definitely been one of the favorite parts of my job, and it was a huge joy to work with the board. We would meet twice a year on campus, but I would also talk to the executive group every week. We got a lot done by being on top of things; we didn’t always agree, but we came up with good decisions together. All the members of MAA look for ways to channel energy from the alumni community and support what they are hearing from them. **MM:** Last thoughts? **MSG:** I have always thought, and still think, Middlebury will always be a part of me. And that’s been the joy of the job—to help people feel that Middlebury will always be part of their lives no matter what happens over the course of the years after graduating. You come back for Reunion or other events, and you’re still a part of it. And that’s important.

Overnight, Dave plus roommate **Jack Carter** and a few others gather to consider who this man is and why he wants to speak to me. Several speculations later, we settle on this combination of factors: my dad was in the Foreign Service; I am in John Clagett’s novel writing class and plotting a spy story about the CIA; and at the recent career fair in Proctor Hall, I blabbed all this to the CIA recruiter.

So of course the CIA fears I Know Things about the Foreign Service that I am spilling in a book! We are giddy at the thought of my upcoming interview with the swarthy man. Well, he must have a foreign accent and not only has a hat but wears a trench coat. He’s gotta be a CIA agent! So we make a banner for the wall above the windows, facing the door: WELCOME CIA.

Next day at noon, several of us await the man from the CIA. He knocks; I open the door. Actually, he’s kind of an ordinary man. He glances with alarm at the banner and asks if we might talk privately, so we go into my single. He flashes wallet credentials of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. He asks if I know a particular woman in the previous class. Yes, but I don’t think I ever even said hi to her. Do you know anything about her? No. He thanks me and leaves.

Of course, my dorm mates think the Civil Service Commission could be his cover and he is just checking to see if I’m some sort of radical. Maybe, but not enough to prevent me getting clearance for the Peace Corps and later the Army in Vietnam. We took down the banner and went on with life. I never completed that novel but, naturally, I became a devotee of espionage fiction. (Highly recommended: Mick Herron’s *Slough House/Slow Horses* series.)

Many thanks go to AI for the laughs. Remember, all classmates are welcome to remind us of funny stories from student days.

One of those classmates pondering possible tales to tell is **Peter Marks**, who kindly sends greetings and promises an amusing tale to come in the future.

This came from **Steve Heidel**: “I am happy to contribute to the class notes. After our 50th Reunion, Lynne and I decided to spend several months in Middlebury in the fall of 2017. We connected with old friends (I spent part of my youth in Montpelier) and with classmates and other alums who live throughout the Northeast. Living in Middlebury gave us access to educational and cultural events and the opportunity to watch Middlebury compete in NESCAC fall sports. We hiked Snake Mountain, walked the TAM (Trail Around Middlebury), played golf at Ralph Myhre Golf Course, and biked in the Champlain Valley. The weather was mild, and the scenery was beautiful. We enjoyed it so much that we have gone back every fall except one (we missed 2020 due to COVID). We have cut back a little on the physical activity (e-bikes, riding in a golf cart) but still enjoy the time in Middlebury and the opportunity to meet up with new and old friends.”

Gordie McAleer reported that he continues to be busy with the family business, Bixby Chocolates. “We’re located in the historic harbor district of Rockland, Maine. In recent years we have picked up prestigious Sofi Awards for our favorite products. If any classmates are in the neighborhood, do stop by to say hello. Who knows, we could put you on the production line or press you into service for quality control testing. Our kids and grandkids put on a wonderful birthday party for me in August for my 80th and planted a tree in my honor at our family place on Lake George. Donna and I are headed to Puglia, Italy, with friends this fall for some cultural transfusion.”

Francine read in last year’s November/December Vermont Public newsletter that *My Place* host **Joel Najman** has been DJing Saturday night living room dance parties for 40 years! The station was celebrating his four decades with Vermont Public [radio] by having a throwback dance party for all his dedicated fans, who

could listen live on Saturday, November 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. or join Joel in person at the Colchester studios to toast “one of the greats.”

Leslie Anderson Curchack published a photographic calendar entitled “In Love with Earth” for 2025.

We received a note from Helen Martin Whyte ’67 saying that **George Whyte** had died in late October 2024. We send condolences to his family.

Don’t forget that our 60th Reunion is June 5–7, 2026!

—*Class Correspondents: Prue Frey Heikkinen (prueannarbor@gmail.com), 1914 Wayne St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; Francine Clark Page (fpag2@myfairpoint.net), 19 Brigham Hill Ln., Essex Junction, VT 05452.*

1967
Roger Lathbury, sophomore roommate of **Russ Fellows**, let us know of Russ’s death in November 2024. Russ was a lifelong Vermonter, growing up in Springfield and creating a warm, distinctive, and self-built home in Jericho with his life partner Bob Coates. He created woodworking studios in Jericho and Sarasota, Fla., where he continued his family’s traditions of invention and art as a master woodworker and bowl turner. Roger shares a wonderful memory anecdote from their college friendship:

“Russ was a low-keyed, quiet fellow, an enthusiast of BMWs and car racing (his dream was to be in the Indy 500). He was easy to get along with, with a ready sense of humor, especially over what he found to be needlessly fanciful or pretentious. For example, in the manner of W. C. Fields, he loved a word used in a bio

class we shared: ‘phagocytize.’ It means ‘to devour’ and is used to describe the process by which cells ingest material in other cells. If we went to the Crest Room or the dining hall for a snack or meal, Russ would propose that we phagocytize some viands. Russ stayed true to his passions, passing away while enjoying one of many motorcycle adventures with good friends. RIP.”

Sadly, we learned from Andrew Robinson that his brother, **David Robinson**, died on April 12, 2025.

Here is a message from **Helen Martin Whyte** and **Susie Davis Patterson**: Our special and successful Wof67 group began with a small gathering at Lake Dunmore in the fall of 1991. Susie planned and hosted, and Helen, on Sunday afternoon just before disbanding, said, “This was so much fun, let’s keep doing it and reach out to more women in our class.” We have done so for 34 years and three quarters of the women of our class have attended one or more of our annual September gatherings. Along the way we have camped, hiked, skinny-dipped, cooked, eaten, and cleaned up together and shared our lives in ways not possible in the normal five-year Reunion schedule. Last September over 30 of us gathered at Bread Loaf campus in a deep sharing celebration of our connections. Over the years every woman has contributed time and skills and herself and her life story to making our time together a treasured part of our lives.

The reality of our lives at 80, and the monumental task of organizing our large group gatherings, has us at a transition time. We all wish to keep up our deep friendships and support for each other and will do so in smaller, more ad-hoc but still meaningful group gatherings. One of those happened in April when **Sue Rugg Parmenter** hosted a brunch in honor of our dear friend, **Linda Morse**, who is now in residential care with support for her cognitive decline. Helen and **Carol Collin Little** picked Linda up and brought her to Sue’s home in East Corinth, Vt., and Susie and **Freddie Mahlmann** drove over together from central Vermont. Linda was surrounded with love and care, which it was evident she felt, as we each shared our joys and concerns in our current lives.

To all Wof67: please know that our group and our connections and support for each other continue and do reach out to one another as we look forward to all being together in two years’ time at our 60th Reunion. Susie already has a designated Wof67 session in mind for that milestone Reunion. Meanwhile, **Barbara Oswalt Wynn** is the keeper of our contact info and is happy to share.

—*Class Correspondents: Peter Kovner (pkovner@gmail.com), 12 Independence Ave., Lexington, MA 02421; Karl Lindholm (lindholm@middlebury.edu), 825 Cider Mill Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Susan Davis Patterson (spatters@uvm.edu), 770 Indian Trail, Lake Dunmore, Leicester, VT 05733.*

1968
Molly Hubbard Kent hopes that Middlebury is standing with Harvard, Columbia, Yale, and others in the face of the ugly onslaught by the Trump mob, attempting to control the staffing, curriculum, and student population in our institutions of higher learning. She says, “My Middlebury experience was invaluable and opened my mind to so much that remains with me and guides my understanding of our vibrant diversity today. I retired from agency work in 2015 but continue to work in private practice as a therapist working with trauma healing and integration. I am firmly in Tucson, Ariz., with Lulu, toddler puppy! There’s extra room, come visit!”

Robert Friedman notes that he has finally retired again, after 34 years in internal medicine and then a slew of part-time jobs in telemedicine, substance abuse, etc. “I recently gave up my medical license which I had for 53 years, but now I have more time for cycling (I am president

and high commander of the Lakeville, Mass., Cycle Club), reading, outside work, and being with my wife, Donna, as we approach our 55th wedding anniversary. In August I took part in my 25th Pan Mass Challenge bike ride; over the years, I have personally raised over \$510,000 for the Dana Farber Cancer Center. So, it looks like retirement it is, and I am ready for it.”

Bob Flaws still lives in Lafayette, Colo. He and his wife just celebrated their 46th anniversary. In his role of Lama Pema Chopel, he still leads several Tibetan Buddhist pujas (services) per month for a small group of congregants. He also teaches on Zoom to a fairly large group of national and international students, and this last year he began leading retreats twice a year at Pure Land Farms in Topanga, Calif. Six or seven years ago he developed myasthenia gravis, but weekly infusions mostly keep his symptoms at bay.

After **Sally Danz Sibulkin** retired as guidance director of Moultonborough Academy (N.H.) in 2009, she taught college guidance to Royal Thai Scholars during five-week summer terms at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, N.H. Now she is fully retired and enjoying her time with joy and thankfulness, spending time with family and friends and seeing places she has not seen before—with four Viking cruises, train trips and visits to five fantastic National Parks, Salt Lake City, and the Pacific Northwest. She writes, “Wasn’t it Dr. Seuss who wrote a book entitled *Oh, the Places You’ll Go*? I have been back to Middlebury, not for a Reunion, but for time to enjoy the memories.”

Sue Lauf Youngquist and Mal continue living the life in southwest Florida. They attended the wedding of the first tutorial student (of four) whom Sue had after her Latin teaching career ended in Connecticut. “Time sure has flown since we decided to move to Florida full time in 2012.Despite Mal’s serious health issue that arose in 2021, we are both feeling great and are involved in sports.” To keep her brain active, Sue spends an hour each day refreshing her German and Spanish. Soon she will be adding Italian.

Lindsay Patterson Allison reports that she and husband Blake have sold their house in Harvard Square and moved to

Chappaquiddick Island. She has retired from real estate after 45 years, and Blake, an architect, retired also and has designed a guest house at their new home.

Dan Curry writes, “My wife, Hua, and I welcomed our first grandchild, Finn Chaoyo Curry, into the world in January. We visited them in London, then went to Rome where I spoke at a science fiction event. Then on to Düsseldorf to present at the Filmmuseum that has some of my works in its collection. Then to Bonn to present at FedDon for a *Star Trek* event. Two of Hua’s sisters and a niece will be joining us from Thailand for a mini-reunion. In July we visited classmate **Steve Killam** and wife Adelaide in Vermont. I’m still writing and doing conceptual design, fine arts, and consulting on visual effects for movies and TV.”

Robert Deitz writes, “I am now in my third career, teaching undergrads and grad students full time at George Mason Univ. My first job was as a corporate litigator in big law in D.C. The second was as general counsel of the National Security Agency, and, later, as senior counselor to the director of the CIA. The education I received at Middlebury as an English major laid the foundation for each career.”

Bill Brummett reports, “I am retired now after 50 years of law practice. I had my own office in Albuquerque, N.M., for over 30 years. My wife and I celebrated our 50th anniversary three years ago. In retirement, I train hot air balloon crews and crew with the retired chief justice of the New Mexico State Supreme Court, deliver for Meals on Wheels, and tutor first graders in reading and writing.”



North Shetter and wife Jan just celebrated 51 years of marriage. For their anniversary they took dinner to homebound friends who just celebrated their 73rd anniversary. North has been retired for eight years and still misses the people contact from work. North and Jan spend winters at Burnt Store Marina condo near Punta Gorda, Fla., and six months in Menominee, Mich., doing yardwork, golfing, and flying. They occasionally see Gail and **Frank Adshead** who have a condo in Punta Gorda.

C.J. Wikstrand Lewis and **Fran Frederick's Ferriss** say, “We write to satisfy your unquestioned curiosity about what we’ve been up to for the past six decades while we can recall events and you might remember who we are. From the time we moved into Batt South, we’ve been fellow bio majors, roommates, sorority sisters (Tri-Delt), and most importantly, best friends. Grad school (Duke for Fran, an MS in physical therapy, UNC for C.J., a PhD in genetics) found us only 12 miles apart. Then we had each other’s weddings, the arrival of sons (Fran, 2; C.J., 1), and now we’re sharing the experience of being grandmothers (Fran, 1; C.J., 2). The friendship begun at Midd has not only continued but grown in importance as we share the milestones of life together. We hope the best for all of you, and that you, too, might have the joy of ‘the inexpressible comfort’ (George Eliot; and you thought we were just science nerds) of a long-shared friendship.”

We recently heard from two classmates who left Midd to continue their education elsewhere but send their best wishes to the class. **Nancy Limbach Spears** attended Midd in her freshman year, then transferred elsewhere to be with her fiancé. She now lives in Silverthorne, Colo. And **Don Swartz** eventually graduated elsewhere and has had some interesting

pieces of a life well-lived. Don’s new email address is don@swimcoachdirect.com.

We are sad to report the deaths of **Eric Kolvig** on July 2, 2024; **Kathleen Jenks Harm** on August 12, 2024; **Ginny Callan Sheldon** on October 28, 2024; **Douglas Tholke** on March 16, 2025; and **Donald Gulick** on April 13, 2025.

NOTE: Many emails sent to the whole Class of 1968 were undeliverable. Please help us stay in contact by sending me (**Gail**) your current email address. And please also contact Middlebury directly at go.middlebury.edu/ update for this and all other life changes. Thanks!

Finally, **Tobi Watson** is retiring as class correspondent. We thank her for serving! You can send her your good wishes at watson.tobi@gmail.com.

—Class Correspondent: *Gail Hyde (glhsrs@rit.edu), 23 Cricket Hill Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534.*

1969

Stefan Nagel reports, “The unadorned reason why I regretfully missed last year’s Reunion is simple: I was on the other side of the pond. The backstory is more complicated. After years of planning and delays, American friends and I completed an extended, weeklong supported bicycle traverse of Belgium and the Netherlands, which was followed by travels with European friends and spouse Nancy to Friesland and northern Germany. While the trip was originally planned for 2020, it was delayed several times by COVID, an eye operation of one of the European friends, and three cancer diagnoses (grandson Zeke and two of the bicycle participants), capped off by an elbow injury to yet another bicycle participant. Timing was

therefore a challenge; the window into which we collectively decided to shoehorn the trip unfortunately took in Reunion Weekend. So, on the banks of the Rhine / we raised glasses of wine / and toasted the Class / of Midd ’69. Cheers, Proost, Prost, Salut!”

Ginny Hopper Hoverman writes, “After our Reunion, I stayed in Middlebury and on Lake Dunmore for the summer. It was great to kayak and hike, visit friends, and walk around campus remembering how much fun it was to reconnect with our Midd ’69 classmates during our Reunion Weekend! As I write this, I’m in Cancun, Mexico, with daughter Heather (Midd ’95), son-in-law Phil, granddaughter Lizzie (Midd ’25), and grandson Alex. We are having a blast in this gorgeous place, and I feel so very grateful every day to be with them. Back home in Charlottesville, Va., I continue to volunteer for the University of Virginia Tuesday Evening Concert Series as well as Live Arts Theater and the Paramount Theater.”

From **Karen Loesch Whitehill** came this note: “**Dick** and I did not expect to stay in Charlottesville, Va., for all except two years since Middlebury, but we have no regrets! We’ve always appreciated this mid-size university town with a moderate climate, close to mountains and shore. UVA orthopedics was a great place for Dick’s career; for me, the arts and writing communities were very rewarding; I spent many years working and volunteering in various groups.”

Beverly Thierwechter says, “Not sure what Charlottesville residents call themselves, but, in Crozet, I’ve heard us referred to as ‘Croatiens.’ Sounds sort of like Martians, to me! I was in Falls Church, Va., with my stepson and family and had lots of fun. My twin granddaughters are in their first year of college—one here at UVA (yay!) and one in upper state New York at Hobart William Smith (an ice hockey player).”

Sadly, we learned that **Dave Bahnson** died on August 5. He had recently shared that he was awarded an FAA Master Pilot Award for 50 years of accident free and violation free operation over 4,000 hours as a pilot. **Roger Cummings** observes, “Less than 1 in 10,000 Americans are Master Pilots.” The class sends condolences to his family.

Doug Barr sent a note saying he had a glorious trip to Belize with his entire family, including Midd daughter Katherine ’00.

John Tidd writes, “I’m still living right next to Killington and ski 60 to 80 days a year on telemark gear. I do X-C now and again. I’m enormously grateful that my body still allows me to make good turns with no bionic body parts (so far). I welcome any classmates who want to ski here.”

From Idaho **Susan Lidstone** reported that last winter they didn’t have much snow, so she hadn’t skied yet when she wrote. “Lee and I went on a Mediterranean cruise in January for about three weeks and both of us came home sick, so it was a difficult time. Flu was rampant here and it seemed to last forever!”

Jim LaChance reports, “Alan and I went to the Boston Middlebury holiday party last December. Great turnout. I was happy to see so many enthusiastic young Midd alums there as well as lots of older folks like us. Much love and praise was showered on Laurie Patton, plus a few tears over her impending departure. We heard good news about the ongoing For Every Future campaign, drank good wine, and talked with so many interesting people doing so many exciting things.”

Roger Cummings writes, “**Candy (Sverson)** and I took a vacation on St. Kitts at the end of February to use one week of our Marriott timeshare. We discovered that **Ginny Rauh** and husband Mac had been there in January for her annual child neuroscience conference. In addition to conference activities, they enjoyed tennis, a boat to Alexander Hamilton’s birthplace in Nevis, and hiking. Funding for both Ginny (NIH) and son Jay ’12

(NSF) depends on federal grants. They are personal examples of the challenges to the research and academic worlds in the current environment.”

In March, **Greg Lewis** was inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for 50 years of contributions to the sport through his broadcast work. (Great article about him in the March 28 *Aspen Daily News*. You can check it out online.) The ceremony was in Lake Placid, N.Y., but you’ll have to travel to Ishpeming, Mich., to see the installation. Early this year, Greg went to Florida to catch up with **Tom Harrington**. Tom and Ute flew in from Germany to visit their son, a Lufthansa pilot.

Finn Gundersen has moved, but not far: “Our address is Kamas, Utah, 15 miles east of Park City, where the cows and horses still outnumber the people and we like it that way. Moved out of Park City seven years ago; it was too busy.”

Check out a photo of classmates on page 59.

—Class Correspondents: *Roger Cummings (rwcod1@gmail.com), 5401 Eastern Shore Dr., Greensboro, NC 27455; Peter Reynolds (preyn@icloud.com), 493 Stillmeadow Ln., Addison, VT 05491.*

1970

About 30 of our classmates made it to Middlebury for our 55th Reunion. Highlights of the weekend included a discussion on wide-ranging topics led by **Bee Ottinger** and **Larry Colvin**; “Storytelling” led by **Judy Cullen Friede**; and a memorial of departed classmates with song and poetry; it ended with a brunch on Lake Champlain hosted by Stewart and **Rena Gearhart Diana**.

Memories of our years together were expressed during Convocation by **Bonnie Williams Flahive** and **Jeff Sturges**. Our class experienced dramatic evolution, some trivial, some substantial: the civil rights movement; assassinations of JFK, Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King; a man on the moon!; Vietnam—the draft, the lottery, ROTC; Kent State; nationwide antiwar protests. On campus, social life centered around fraternities. Remember toga parties, DKE burning down? At Carnival, we sang “We Gotta Get Outta this Place.” (Were we crazy? Who

CELEBRATIONS



1. Sean Hoskins '02 and Paul Gruber '03.5 met up at the finish of the Dexter-Ann Arbor Half Marathon.
2. Friends from the Class of 1970 gathered in Tucson, Ariz., for a mini-reunion: Suzy Pexton Bourque, Jo Wayles, Bee Ottinger, Nan Adams Roth, (second row) Sandy Humphrey Rybczynski, Carol Tobin, and Rena Gearhart Diana.
3. David Barrutia '98 and family were happy to welcome fellow 1998 Midd Kids for dumplings and hot pot to usher in the Year of the Dragon: (in front) Ben Christian, (on couch) Sandeep Oberoi, David, Topher Lewis, and Mark Tromblay.
4. A fun gathering of 1981 classmates happened at a restaurant owned by Jim Estes in Woods Hole, Mass.: Jim, Elaine King Nickerson, Annie O'Herron Burleigh, and Peter Jones.
5. Franklin Morton '77 and wife Debbie hosted a 1977 gathering in Deer Valley, Utah, to kick off the 2024 March Madness: (seated) Keith Michl, Anne Van Ingen, Bob Lindberg, Betsy Seeley, (standing) Franklin, Tuck Bigelow.
6. School of Spanish friends gathered in Middlebury for an informal reunion: Sam Knowles MA '00, Nicole Kramer Mitchell MA '99, Jody Lekberg Stephenson '96, MA '99, Scott Webster MA '99, Kevin Drever MA '99, and Chuck Tompkins MA '99.

wants to leave Middlebury?) We danced to Motown, listened to folk music, the Beach Boys, and the Beatles. Dress codes, *in loco parentis* and parietal hours, curfews, and single sex dorms—all dissolved as we joined the sexual revolution. At Midd and everywhere, we heard, “The times they are a’changin.” Most of us entered Midd as passive patriots—and we evolved into active skeptics. We matriculated as naive boys and girls and graduated as young men and women committed to making a positive difference and eager to take on the world. Fifty-five years later, we are still committed.

In other news: **Sue Porter Beffel** writes, “I took a quick trip to Florida for my stepson’s funeral, with a drive back with friend Doug via the Outer Banks, then Christmas in Vermont with family, and cataract surgery in February—I love the renewed colors and crisper detail, though I’m a bit shocked at all the wrinkles I can see now too!”

Last winter **Ashley Cadwell** wrote to say it was the best winter they’d had in Vermont in a long time. It was cold but there was a beautiful white cover of snow for months and lots of good skiing.

Fred Johnston let us know he’s “still breathing” on Polawana Island, S.C.

Jeff Lott and Wendy (Coe) ’72 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2019. They met freshman year and left Middlebury the following winter to start a new life together in Boston. After marrying and returning to Vermont, they re-entered Midd in 1970, majoring in studio art (Jeff) and religion (Wendy). Since 1974, they have lived in Delaware. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

Meg Floyd McCann writes, “I’ve been on two amazing trips that I would highly recommend to my classmates. Over winter break, I took my daughter and family (including grandkids ages 11 and 16) to the Galápagos Islands on a National Geographic ship. Lots of activities—Zodiac cruising, Zodiac landings with hikes, snorkeling, kayaking, and glass-bottom boat rides. They have a great children’s program that both my grandchildren enjoyed. Then I went to Antarctica with my son and his wife, with Viking. The brand-new ship was specifically designed for polar exploration, and it has an elegant but understated Norwegian vibe. Similar activities as the other trip—Zodiak cruises and landings (with short hikes and penguins!), kayaking, larger motorboat rides, and (for an extra fee) submarine dives. Contact me with questions. (No, I don’t get a commission!)”

Susan Parlow reports, “At 76 years old, I got married for the first time! I never wanted to be married when younger, but lo and behold, I met a soulmate. We got married in September 2024, and **Bee Ottinger** was the maid of honor!”

Kathy Wardwell Roser says, “What was once news of north Idaho (where I moved to from Colorado in 2020) is now, sadly, news of the whole country—i.e., the wing nuts have taken over and we’re all going down the tubes. Yikes! My distractions from that have been skiing and trying to get a little house built. The skiing has been fantastic, and the house, after nearly four years of too-high bids and flakey contractors, is finally a reality. I moved in last month—it’s a cute little place in the woods, in a spot that is reminiscent of the Green Mountains.”

Unfortunately, we have experienced some deaths of classmates this year. The husband of **Mary Janss** reports that she died in February of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. And **Rick Dostie** and **David Leavenworth** both died in January.

Check out a photo of a 1970 mini-reunion on page 65.

—*Class Correspondents: Carol Harden (charden@utk.edu); Diantha Bartlett Howard (diantha.howard@uvm.edu); Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com).*

1971
REUNION CLASS

Our 55th Reunion is coming up fast (June 5–7, 2026!), and we look forward to seeing everyone there. We surveyed our class the first week of July, and the following classmates plan/hope to come: **Obie Benz, John Tuttle, Susan Thornton, Russell Patton, Steve Early, Anne Yerpe Kavcic, Rob Waters, Tom Tobin, Rick Kelley, Jane Lardner Lambshead, Lou “Spider” Mills, Grove Nichols, Joan Kerrigan, Stephanie Davis Lett, Bob and Margaret Rothschild Levy** (uncertain), **Mryka Hall-Beyer, Carolyn Whiting, Susan Fritsch Hunter, Denny and Maureen O’Bryan Shanahan, Gail Stevenson, Pam Philipp Whelan, Francie Marbury, Gail Cross Giebink, Carolyn Ungberg Olivier, Karen Lindsay Palmer, Martha Murray, John Gambell, Churchill Franklin, Taxi Smith, Bruce Foust, Mark Gillispie, and Jay and Emily Groom Goyette**. By the time you read this column, many more will have made plans to attend. Join us!

Pam Whelan and her husband, Will, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January, with all five of their children in attendance. Pam wrote of their family’s involvement in humanitarian causes, including a sad reference to USAID: “Will’s entire career was intertwined with USAID. He helped to develop their Famine Early Warning System. Our children and their spouses are also primarily involved with humanitarian and environmental work. Will and I are currently housing an Afghan refugee family of five children and their widowed mother and are working with some other families as well. I still tutor regularly, and Will makes regular Santa appearances at Christmastime to help support

an orphanage in Zambia that we’ve worked with for 40 years.”

Sue Thornton wrote from Paris, where she spent three weeks in July. “While I’m here I’m attending a workshop on poetry writing (in English) taught by a dear friend of mine from Binghamton Univ. So far, it’s a lot of fun and a good opportunity for me to practice my French. Looking forward to our Reunion.”

Steve Early reported on the death of classmate **Dan Hodges**. “Dan’s death, in Berkeley, Calif., in March, was widely mourned by his longtime healthcare reform coworkers in California. Before retiring, Dan worked as a technical writer for 30 years in the East Bay. His campaign for a single-payer healthcare system was part of a long history of political engagement that began with his anti-war activism at Middlebury. Later it included tenant organizing, unionization of ESL teachers, and Central American solidarity work in the 1970s and ’80s in Massachusetts.”

John Tuttle wrote, “It’s hard to imagine how long ago I arrived on campus, and now I have spent 50 years advising business owners, professionals, and families on how to have a successful financial life. I love it so much I’m still working with my client friends, wherever they’ve moved to.”

Mryka Hall-Beyer said, “I enjoyed a walking tour of Sicily last fall and plan a similar one in Greece this October. After that I’ll visit **Anne Kavcic** in Switzerland. I went on a geology field trip, in conjunction with the GSA regional convention in Spokane, in May 2024. My questions and ideas were usually prefaced by ‘back in the Pliocene, when I was studying this stuff, we thought that . . . Is that still accurate?’ Since we were looking at 1.7 billion-year-old rocks, all the participants had sworn at the outset not to mention the Pleistocene, more like one million years ago. I had a wonderful time without having to bushwhack and climb cliffs like a real field geologist.”

Gail Stevenson wrote, “I’m long retired but still working part time at two jobs. The first one started out as something to do during COVID and the second is as the office manager for my church. I like both jobs, and they keep me busy and provide structure. Not too busy to keep me from traveling, though, including to Iceland (seeing the

Northern Lights has long been on my checklist!), to Sardinia (wonderful), and Norway, where I lived for a number of years and have many friends.”

A few folks wrote about classmates they have stayed in touch with or hope to see at Reunion. From **Carolyn Whiting** we heard, “I’m occasionally in touch with **Barb Haven Nielsen** and **Mryka Hall-Beyer** via email. In addition to them, I’d also love to see **Anne Kavcic, Christine O’Sullivan**, and **Carol Ball**. I was laid off from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston last October, so I’m now retired. But I seem to be as busy as ever.”

Denny Shanahan wrote of himself and wife **Maureen**: “I have done a very poor job of keeping up with classmates over the past years. The only classmate we have seen recently is **Mike Brennan**, whom we visited at his home near Miami last year. We were embarking on a cruise from Miami to Venice and came a day early to visit Mike. It was great to see him again after so many years and meet his wife, Amy. The cruise was also fantastic!”

Although she won’t be able to attend our Reunion, **Lynne Rogers Farrington** mentioned several classmates she stays connected to and sends her best wishes to us all: “I fear this old lady’s health issues still prevent her from making a cross-country trip. My growing team of medical providers have restricted me from any kind of air travel, so I’ll have to just sit here and wait for reportage from those lucky enough to be there. As for myself, I remain in decent touch with my old roomie, **Emily Goyette**, my old flame, **John Lawson**, and various others of that little group, including **Jeff Rand, Dick Sheckman**, and

Karen Palmer. I’m sad that we won’t be able to count the noses of **Howie Verman** and **Peter Quinn**, but I’m certain they’ll be wisecracking from their celestial perch! Best love to all the Class of ’71.” We’re sorry to report that **Michael Welebit** passed away of a heart attack on March 11. After graduating from Middlebury, Mike earned a master’s degree in architecture from Columbia and went on to pursue a long and successful career designing and managing major building projects in the U.S. and internationally, including in the UAE, India, and other countries. We remember him as a kind and gentle soul—and a world traveler!

Sadly, we also learned that **Patty Hartlieb Selsky** died on April 12. **Susan Fritsch Hunter** was able to see Patty on Cape Cod last year. You can see a photo on page 83. Susan will write more about Patty in the next issue of the magazine.

Our best to all.

—*Class Correspondents: Gail Cross Giebink (ggiebink@austin.utexas.edu); Carolyn Ungberg Olivier (carolyn.olivier@gmail.com); Karen Lindsay Palmer (kpalmer@hbr.org).*

1972
Marshall Webb and wife Ann were joined by **Cynthia Bear** for a delightful dinner reunion in Vancouver this past June. Marshall and his wife had just returned from Berlin, Germany, where they have an apartment. They split their time between Vancouver and Berlin, enjoying the scenery and slower pace of the former in preparation for the almost over stimulation of Berlin. Not having seen each other for a few decades, there was lots to catch up on and a few Midd tales to retell. Cynthia was about to embark on the Rocky Mountain Explorer train through the Canadian Rockies. Back home, she declared the trip “spectacular.”

A year ago, Marshall obtained his Italian passport. Passing the language requirement wasn’t too onerous. Trying to learn German is another matter altogether. “I seem to be permanently stuck somewhere between perpetual beginner (A1) and wannabe intermediate (B1). Berlin (un)fortunately is almost a bilingual city.”

—*Class Correspondents: Jennifer Hamlin Church (jhchurch@sienaheights.edu); Evey*

Zmudsky LaMont (eveylamont@gmail.com).

1973
Joe Bergin checked in with thoughts from the Old Dairy Farm, 420 Lake Rd., Charlotte Vt.: “After much wandering and serial residencies over the years, I have at last come back to Vermont for good. I spent some time growing up in St. Albans as the Opie Taylor character in my Uncle John Finn’s Franklin County jail, so roots go deep. I now find myself renting an old farmhouse near Lake Champlain through the offices of the magnificent HomeShare Vermont nonprofit. I have the place to myself, actually; just me and the old Baldwin grand, and the mice, of course. My host is Valerie Graham, a retired and much-revered physician who lives up the road at Wake Robin, a “life plan community.” She is also a poet in her own right, and we have become the best of friends. We were both featured poets at the Pierson Library in Shelburne last fall. Last summer, Bob ’72 and **Kathy Wonson Eddy** came to the farm for a rollicking visit. We jumped in the lake, had lunch, and Kathy played a moving composition of her own on the Baldwin about her son’s travels throughout Europe on the Watson Fellowship. A Day in Heaven!

There are a number of older Midd Kids, Class of 1960, etc., in the environs hereabouts. Some are married couples who met at school and have stood the test of time, like our beloved Kathy and Bob.

Please stop in anytime at all, and there is plenty of room for overnight guests.

—*Class Correspondents: Rob Badger (randcbadger@gmail.com); Deborah Greenhut (deborah.greenhut@gmail.com).*

1974
Since last year’s 50th Reunion yearbook provided ample opportunities for updates on the activities of members of our class, we thought we would take a different approach in this Class Acts column. We contacted several classmates who did attend the Reunion, and who had not been back to Middlebury in a number of years, and we asked them to describe their impressions of the College and campus and their reactions to seeing their classmates after a somewhat long interval. Our hope is that this will be of particular interest to those who were unable to attend. Their comments are provided below.

Roger Bowman says, “I’ve lived in the western U.S. and Australia since graduating, so our 50th Reunion was only my second visit to Middlebury College since 1974. The campus and its setting are still familiar and beautiful, of course, but new buildings have sprouted everywhere like mushrooms. The Science Center that was a recent addition when our class arrived, and that was important to me as a physics and geology major, has been razed, its function replaced in 2000 by the enormous McCardell Bicentennial Hall. The SDUs, where I enjoyed dinners with friends and a view of the Adirondacks, have been repurposed and no longer seem to be important to daily campus life. The massive and luxurious field house made me wonder whether Middlebury College was now an adjunct to the field house rather than the other way around. My wife, who attended a public university in California, couldn’t stop exclaiming, ‘You were so lucky.’ And she was right! Fortunately, some campus buildings remain largely unchanged. Reunion functions held in Dana Auditorium transported me back to lectures there in art history and baby geography. Mead Chapel is unchanged except for its name. (Fortunately, its original name was not engraved in stone over the entry.) Because I’ve lived in regions sparsely populated by Middlebury alumni, I’ve kept in touch with only a handful of our classmates. Therefore, I was worried about forgetting classmates and being forgotten (which worried me more?). I tried to put my inhibitions aside and talk to people I vaguely remembered, but I didn’t do as well as I’d hoped. I spent much of my time hanging out with people I’ve remained in touch with over the decades; it just felt comfortable. Everyone I did reach out to was both interesting and pleasant. I envied the 25th Reunion class

who looked to be the age I still felt we were; the Class of 2024 looked like high schoolers. A benefit of the Reunion yearbook was discovering four classmates living near me in San Diego, and, although we don’t necessarily remember each other from our time at Middlebury, we’ve established a routine of getting together for dinners a few times a year. Good job on the yearbook!”

Nancy Vaughan O’Neal writes, “We drank from a ‘deep well’ as my husband, John, MA French ’75 said of our Reunion Weekend. I, myself, was buoyed, humbled, warmed, grateful—and struck by the kindness of my classmates, many of whom I had not seen in decades. Thank you to the Reunion Committee, and to all my classmates for engaging us in creative ways—talks, walks, discussions, surveys reading, singing. I found it uplifting to come together once again in that very tranquil setting to share experiences and to learn from one another. The community that was the Middlebury-of-my-memory seemed to reassemble itself quite magically, and I am still inspired by the sensation that welled up in me over the course of those four days. The memorial service, organized by **Mary Lee-Clark**, was a high point. It was deeply moving to hear my old friend **Rick Seeley** play the violin so beautifully; to listen to my Forest hallmate **Liza Williams** recite her eloquent poem, ‘Touching Hands’; to sing alongside my Science Center classmate **Alan Berkower**, and many others, the haunting Leonard Cohen song ‘Hallelujah’; to hear my old friend **Jennie Buchanan Paretti** pronounce, one after the other, the names of our deceased classmates; and to think of my own roommate, **Carol Simmermacher Smith**, when asked to read the poem

‘Kindness’ by Naomi Shihab Nye. Inevitably, encounters and conversations were all too brief, especially with those who came from afar—Japan, France, West Coast—and whom I hadn’t seen in a very long time. But oddly, the sparks of those encounters remain with me. They were small, yet powerful, exchanges for me that seem to hold promise of a rekindling in the future. I feel fortunate.”

Carla Hall says, “A feeling of genuine connection and warmth surrounded me arriving at our 50th Reunion. It felt like no time had passed since 1974, despite the five decades of life we were all eager to share with one another. What stood out to me is the easy openness and trust between us all—whether we were old friends from our Middlebury years or new friends meeting one another for the first time 50 years later. The student ambassadors inspired me with conversations about their interests and aspirations. The weekend program was well designed, further igniting the connections and memories we all shared. The chapel service for those deceased members of our class touched my heart, and I was happy to be able to participate in the choir for the Sunday chapel service. I loved also seeing my old haunts in the Johnson building as well as the new buildings and the rare collections at the library. I really enjoyed my conversations with Laurie Patton and her talk at our class dinner. The exceptional talent at the Middlebury Moth evening will always remain in my memory. The weekend reaffirmed the gratitude I have for having had a Middlebury education. The beauty and peace of our beloved Middlebury is timeless and will forever remain in my heart.”

See a sidebar about **Bob Lefsetz** on page 70.

—Class Correspondents: *Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net); Steve Trebino (stevetrebino@gmail.com).*

1975

Here is a pre-Reunion note: **Debbie Costello** sent news about a trip she took last November. “I traveled to Morocco with Overseas Adventure Travel. We saw a country experiencing the joys and pains of cultural change. We visited families with striking differences in lifestyle: a nomadic sheepherding family and a professional family in the city. A woman professor who had only recently stopped wearing a hijab after confronting her

traditional father described her experience. From our camp in the Sahara Desert, we explored the dunes by camelback and watched the sunset merge into the landscape.”

Now on to Reunion. **Mike Mulligan** checked in: “Here are some bullet points from Reunion Weekend that struck me: the astounding growth of the campus and the number of new buildings—well designed and attractive—big improvement over the ’70s; the outstanding service, helpfulness, and friendliness of the staff and the Middlebury College students who were working there—they did a great job on every front; the food was delicious and everyone was so very helpful; the delight in meeting so many of our old friends and getting to know other members of our class with whom we barely had any relationships. We now have a handful of new friends at a minimum.

I also felt great respect and admiration for the interim president, Steve Snyder, for helping to heal some of the wounds regarding the budget shortfall, and for his thoughtful speeches. He, of course, was delighted to be passing on the baton to the new president on July 1. I loved getting up and jogging on the beautiful cross-country course on Saturday morning for the 5k fun run: deep greens, lovely rolling country. I very much enjoyed attending some of the special presentations planned by our class and by the College; uplifting and interesting. We also had a special meeting with the lacrosse members of the 1975 ECAC championship team along with the 2020 national Division III champions and the 2015 members of the team. Dave Campbell ’00, men’s lacrosse coach, and Erin Quinn ’86, athletic director, were in

attendance. It was a friendly reunion of the old teammates and good opportunity to meet new players and friends.

And of course, who did not love the barbershop quartet performance of **Burley Dickerson, Dick Gordon, Curt Viebranz**, and **Roger King**? These guys have really fine-tuned their performance and are now ready to hit the road. Such skill, such harmonies, such tunefulness.

We also enjoyed a jam session at the Bread Loaf Barn thanks to none other than **Tom Rappa** and friends. And while at the Barn, I spoke for a while with **Martha Takaro**, whom I did not know in the ’70s. She isn’t in Vermont often, as she currently lives in Portland, Ore., and she remains a dedicated globetrotter. Another new acquaintance!”

Sally Wood Needell and her husband traveled from Durham, N.H., and **Kari Sides Suva** and husband Bob came from Portland, Maine. Kari had recently returned from cycling in Ireland and was bound for daughter Phoebe’s graduation (MSW) in Washington State. She also traveled to Mexico and Cuba in February.

Kevin and Carol Porter ’76 **Donahue** drove up from Massachusetts with **Mark Uppendahl**, who chose us and Reunion over a granddaughter’s high school graduation. Kevin was thrilled to share specifics of our class fundraising success, both to the Alumni Fund and our newly created Class of 1975 Scholarship Fund.

I (**Nan**) remarked to **Chris Tower Zafren**, of Anchorage, Alaska, that she probably took the prize for longest distance traveled. She corrected me, telling me that **Rick Hodes** was visiting from Ethiopia.

Meredith Parsons McComb offered her magnificent voice during the memorial service held for our deceased classmates, led by **Mary Tiebout**, one of our class’s clergyppeople. Sadly, we learned after Reunion that the College heard **Steven Wenick** died on August 18, 2022, and **Elizabeth MacDonald** died on May 20, 2025, so they were not part of the service.

Tom O’Connor led two morning tai chi sessions for us. He was heading out for a Maine vacation as we all started to disperse.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

ARABIC SCHOOL
Reginald Hefner (MA ’15) participated in an event titled “United in Verse: A Reading of Poetry in the World’s Languages,” which was a community event celebrating poetry, language learning, and cultural diversity. He recited Arabic and German poetry. Along with attending the Arabic School at Middlebury, he also attended the School of Hebrew for three years and just completed his fourth summer at the Betty Ashbury Jones MA ’86 School of French.

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
On September 21, **Danny Paul** (MA ’88) was inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame. Since 1977 he has directed 30 state championship cross-country and track and field teams at three different schools, including Falmouth High School where he currently teaches English. A runner himself, he raced well into his early 60s and, at age 71, still averages running 10 miles a day.

Ben Klemer (MA ’05) had his poem “Coming Home” chosen for the National Baseball Poetry Festival, held at Polar Park (home of the WooSox) in Worcester, Mass. He says, “This helps justify that I’m a baseball nut.”

Congratulations to **Kellam Ayres** (MA ’07) who was chosen as a finalist in the poetry division of the 2024 Vermont Book Awards for her book *In the Cathedral of My Undoing*.

In January, **Tim O’Leary** (MA ’07) started a new job as the principal of Charlotte Central School, a pre-K through eighth grade school in Charlotte, Vt. He also runs What’s the Story?, a national program where middle and high school students consider social issues that are important to them and put together short documentary films.

Sally “Sven” Svenningson says, “Subsequent to my graduation in sociology/ anthropology from Middlebury, the U.S. government passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1978, which restored legal status to traditional spirituality and ceremonies. Given my Sami heritage, I have been a participant in First Nations and Native American traditional ceremonies in Canada, the Norwegian

BETTY ASHBURY JONES MA ’86 SCHOOL OF FRENCH
On February 27, **Sandy Steinglass Townsend** (MA ’67) was awarded the *Palmes Académiques* by the French Government for her more than 50 years of excellence in teaching French. The medal was presented by the Consul of Boston and the New England area. Among the attendees were three of her earliest students of French, two of whom attended Middlebury as undergraduates. Madame Townsend is now a *chevalière de France*, if not *de la table ronde*.

Sarah Federman (’16) wrote an article for *The Conversation* about the role the railways played in carrying out the Holocaust and about how, decades later, corporations involved in historical atrocities are reckoning with their involvement. She describes how Holocaust survivors are asking for atonement from the railways, in particular the French National Railways. Her book, *Last Train to Auschwitz*, delves in detail into the interconnected roles the French railways played during the Holocaust: perpetrator, victim, and hero. She is an associate professor of conflict resolution in the Kroc School of Peace Studies at the Univ. of San Diego.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY
In 2019, **Anita Joshi** (MAIPS ’11) launched Chai Five Organics, a sustainable chai company built on principles of ethical sourcing, environmental stewardship, and traditional Ayurvedic knowledge. When COVID hit, she paused production, but she recently relaunched the company, working directly with small-scale farmers in India, Sri Lanka, and Zanzibar growing heirloom spices to create sustainable supply chains while preserving traditional agricultural knowledge. She says, “Having traveled to 35 countries, I’ve seen two things unite people: 1) a cup of tea, and 2) a high five! In this

spirit, I created Chai Five with a mission of creating positive social change and empowered wellness.”

KATHRYN WASSERMAN DAVIS SCHOOL OF RUSSIAN
E. Susanna Weygandt (MA ’07) sent the news that her book, *From Metaphor to Direct Speech: Contemporary Russophone Drama and Performance Theory* was published by the Univ. of Wisconsin Press this year. She is a visiting assistant professor of Russian at Sewanee: The University of the South.

Isaac Seitz (’22) published an article on 19fortyfive.com called “Warship Eliminated: A Navy F/A-18F Fired a ‘Stealth Munition’” about the successful AGM-158C Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile that has been developed by the Navy for Indo-Pacific security, providing a critical edge against Chinese naval ambitions. He is a defense columnist for *19Forty-Five*.

SCHOOL OF SPANISH
Anne Helfer (MA ’88) sent word that she has published a book/workbook, *Healing with Haiku: A Poetic Exploration of Self* (Hatherleigh Press). You can read about it in Editors’ Picks on middleburymagazine.com. She works as a psychotherapist in the Syracuse, N.Y., area.

A group of friends from the School of Spanish gathered in Middlebury for an informal reunion. **Scott Webster** (MA ’99) sent a photo that you can see on page 65.

memorial service, and to the 50th Feud (a la *Family Feud*) Game, based on our class survey, we were busy!

David Perlman writes, “I wrote an essay for the 50th Reunion yearbook about our prank of disabling the chapel bells because we took umbrage over their disturbing our Sunday sleep. To accomplish the mission, we duped the carillonneur into handing over the belfry keys by pounding on his door at 2 a.m. proclaiming that Dean Deletis needed the belfry key immediately! More than 50



MEMORABLE ALBUMS
FROM COLLEGE DAYS
WITH
BOB LEFSETZ '74

Analyst, Critic, and Author of *The Lefsetz Letter*

years later, minutes after the carillonneur arrived for Reunion and minutes before one of the pranksters left to catch a flight back to California, we enjoyed a spontaneous moment of reconciliation.

MANY thanks to our Reunion Yearbook Committee members and chairs **Jill Rogers Coffrin** and **David Perlman**. I welcome all future 50th Reunion memories for future class notes. I'm certainly not finished with my own remembrances! As I've mentioned to several of you, it's a little bittersweet to have Reunion in the rearview mirror, so I'm happy to keep writing about it!

—Class Correspondent: *Nan Rochelle McNicholas* (hbmidd@yahoo.com).

1976
REUNION CLASS

We noticed that a disproportionately large number of classmates live in Vermont and asked them to share with the rest of us what life is like in the Green Mountain State.

Susan Rindge Bigl writes, "I've lived in Vermont for 43 years. One reason is that my political beliefs align with the liberal values here. Also, I wanted my children to live in a small town with a community atmosphere. Mostly, I chose Vermont because of its beauty. I learned at Middlebury that I thrive when surrounded by mountains, soaking in the Adirondacks on those long walks to the SDUs. I jumped at the chance to purchase an inexpensive chunk of land on which to build our home in Bradford. My views are now of the White Mountains and eastern sunrises."

Sarah Russell says, "I first moved to Vermont in 1965, having been born in Colorado. After



Freshman year: I heard *Abraxas* emanating from the room of John "Muddy" Waters '74 down the hall. Sure, it's got Santana's cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Black Magic Woman," and the version of "Oye Como Va" is definitive, but it's the unheralded album tracks that truly resonate with me, like "Mother's Daughter," "Singing Winds, Crying Beasts," "Incident at Neshabur," and "Hope You're Feeling Better."

Sophomore year: I bought Neil Young's *After the Gold Rush* the first week of freshman year, but Neil didn't truly penetrate the dorms until *Harvest* in '72. The number that runs through my mind today is "Old Man." It's kind of like that line in Simon & Garfunkel's "Old Friends"—"How terribly strange to be 70"—and now I'm 72!

Junior year: When the triple album live set *Europe* '72 was released in the fall, it dominated turntables throughout campus. Suddenly, everyone was a Deadhead. This is the album with "Jack Straw" (from Wichita!) and "Tennessee Jed" as well as live takes of previously recorded songs like "Sugar Magnolia" and "Truckin'." Meanwhile, Dead & Company are better live than the Dead ever were.

Senior year: The Allman Brothers became ubiquitous with *Brothers and Sisters*, which came out just before fall term of senior year and was blasted from dorm rooms all over campus. I still can't listen to "Ramblin' Man"—talk about overplayed. And you've got to know how many daughters of our generation were named Jessica; but my favorite song on the album is "Come and Go Blues." "Woman, you got those come and go blues"—a great description of my ex-wife.

Middlebury I lived in Massachusetts until 2016 but always had family in Vermont. In 2016 we moved back to Vermont and currently live in a condo in downtown Burlington. My family has a property in New Haven, which has been in the family since 1788 so, yes, I am a Vermonter. I love the lifestyle here and during COVID it was an ideal place to be. Vermonters care about each other and take care of each other. Since moving back, I've met **Wanda Stetson** in a yoga class, and we see each other quite a bit. Two years in a row we have gathered '76ers at our camp in Charlotte and had a gathering this year again. Consistent attendees are **Candace** and **Greg Moore**, and **Gary Gray** and **Patty Forbes**, who live during the summer on Long Point in North Ferrisburgh. **Pam Marsh** also comes to our gathering. Living the life in Vermont."

Karen Anderson Greene writes, "I so love Vermont! Surrounded by Sunrise Orchards and with a spectacular view of the Green Mountains, where we live in Cornwall, is one of the most beautiful places on earth. We built our house in 1978. No matter how the day goes, it is always a joy to come home. Place is very important to my identity (and sanity); it has helped me survive some really hard times. I do not have plans to live anywhere else. I am most fortunate indeed!"

Austin Hart tells us, "Even before I spent four years at Middlebury, I knew that I wanted to live in Vermont. After graduating and wandering a little bit, I made it to Burlington in 1983. Forty-two years later I still find it breathtakingly beautiful. I am surrounded by people who share my values: kindness and a commitment to our common well-being. I

met my wife here and we raised our two kids (not really kids anymore) together. They walked to their neighborhood school every day with their friends. Burlington has been a refugee resettlement community for decades and has a remarkably diverse population for a largely homogeneous state, so my kids were exposed to more different cultures than I ever experienced in my sheltered childhood. Their upbringing here prepared them to go out and face the world. Burlington is experiencing many of the problems facing other cities, but I am confident that we will resolve them because our politics are (mostly) civil and the scale of everything is smaller and feels more manageable."

Pam Marsh says, "Except for law school, I've been in Vermont since graduation. I ran a small general law practice in Middlebury, specializing in juvenile abuse, neglect, and delinquency, until my retirement in 2022. I was elected as the Addison County Probate Judge in 2022 and took office in 2023. I am still working in that capacity, which is a part-time position. I also teach Juvenile Justice at Champlain College in Burlington. My husband, Larry Maier (Brown '69), and I have two grown children and four biological grandchildren. We are also raising a teenager (a little trickier at our ages) whom we consider to be our granddaughter. She's the daughter of one of our foster kids. There are a number of Middlebury alums in the area. I stay in touch especially with Karen Massey '74, **Kevin Commins**, and **Peter Kristoph**. Peter, Larry, and I recently had lunch with Alexandra Baker, our Russian teacher. Last August I went to Alumni College and took Murray Dry's Executive Power in the Founder's Constitution and the American Constitution Today course. Vermont is our

home, and we are definitely not snowbirds!"

And in more Vermont news, congratulations to **Jan Carney** who was named president-elect of American College of Physicians, the largest medical specialty organization and second-largest physician group in the U.S. She is the associate dean for public health and health policy, professor of medicine, and chief of the Division of Public Health, Dept. of Medicine, Larner College of Medicine at the Univ. of Vermont.

See a photo of a group of 1976 friends on page 77.

Joan Ingram Gavigan has decided to step down as class correspondent and we are looking for someone to take her place. Please let Gary know if you are interested! And thank you to Joan for serving!

—Class Correspondent: *Gary Holmes* (garyholmes76@gmail.com).

1977

Debbie and **Franklin Morton** again hosted a Midd March Madness weekend at Deer Valley, Utah. Attending were **Sheryl Bicknell Kovalik** and husband John, **Janet Swanson Webster** and husband Scott, **Frank Sesno** and **Kathy Sanderson**, **Anne Van Ingen**, **Keith Michl**, **Betsy Seeley**, **Ed Martoglio**, **Denise Schlener**, and me (**Bob**). **Tuck Bigelow** and **Trygve Loken** phoned in to share some wisdom. In addition to the usual snow sports, Janet organized a visit to the Salt Lake City Olympic biathlon venue—we have newfound respect for the endurance and skills of those who participate for real. Our March Madness weekends have become something of an annual thing. To see a photo from an earlier March Madness event, go to page 65.

My wife, Carol, and I traveled with the National WWII Museum Tour to Guam, Saipan, and Tinian as part of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. A side trip to Iwo Jima unfortunately did not come off. The museum hosts excellent tours, if you are a history buff.

I'm sad to report that **Jim Lawrence** passed away June 1. His daughter, Alexa, shared his fondness for Middlebury—the time he spent there and the people he met there. Some excerpts from Jim's obituary, as provided by Alexa, follow:

"Jim loved his family, Block Island, his dogs, swimming and body surfing, parcheesi and hearts; he kept bees and chickens and had a bountiful vegetable garden that fed family, friends, and local food banks. He walked 10,000 steps and painted a watercolor every day. He loved holidays, especially Christmas, and traveled the world. A lifelong Yankees fan, he coached youth soccer and served as a leader for his daughters' Girl Scouts. He lived life to the brim."

Also, **Todd Page** passed away on July 20, 2024. Todd was an active skier and golfer, a fan of Boston sports teams, and active in his community—never one to stand still. May his memory be a blessing.

As we are building momentum toward our 50th Reunion, if there is anyone with a greater/more competent social media presence who is interested in assisting/replacing your current class correspondent, please let me know. The countdown is now inside 24 months.

Till next time, good health to all—and please share your news.

—Class Correspondent: *Bob Lindberg* (boblindberg1928@gmail.com).

1978

Sadly, we learned that **Martha Lappen Pfeiffer** passed away in October of 2023. **Dave Jaffray** writes, "My special memory is that we had an informal folk group with Martha, **Craig Wells**, and **Katie Shepherd**. We spent many, many nights in Craig's room (or someone else's) playing songs from Judy Collins, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, and others. We always had lots of candles and wine. We played at the Band Room many times, the Carnival Nightclubs, and even once at the

Bluegrass Festival. By junior year, we were down to Katie and me, because Craig and Martha did their junior year abroad. Some of my fondest memories were of those nights playing. Martha and Katie's voices were so great together."

—Class Correspondents: *David Jaffray* (ddjaffray@gmail.com); *Anne Rowell Noble* (anne.noble@gmail.com).

1979

Richard Tarlov sent a note about a joyful reunion of Midd alums held for the 45th anniversary of the Ray Mountains Project. Hosted by Steve Brock '80 and family at their home in West Marin County, north of San Francisco, the get-together commemorated a student-originated grant project—funded mostly by the National Science Foundation, with help from the Explorers Club and the Kendall Foundation—that took place in the summer of 1979. He writes, "Spearheaded by **Ned Farquhar**, and inspired by the Northern Studies Program at the College—as well as several academic advisors and administrators like Steven Rockefeller and Erica Wonnacott—the project included a 12-person team that conducted an environmental analysis of this unexplored mountain range in central Alaska. We hiked hundreds of miles over formidable tussocks using only paper maps, and we camped in extreme tundra conditions for six weeks while surviving the F16-sized mosquitoes of Torment Creek. But the project was a tremendous success. It resulted in a publication by Middlebury College Press in 1980 and launched several careers in environmental science and policy. Most participants attended our joyful third reunion—those who came included John Schubert '80, Libby Halpin Nelson '80, Sarah Roeske '80, Indy Burke '80, **Brad Armstrong**, and Trina Kassler Waters '78 as well as Steve, Ned, and me." Unable to make it were Lisa Senior '80 and **Tom Smith**, and they held in loving memory Pam Matthews (UC Santa Cruz '80).

This past winter, I (**Henry**) and family traveled to New Zealand to drop off our son, who was going to study there for five months. We visited the South Island before heading to Wellington on the North Island. New Zealand is a beautiful country in so many ways, and it was great to be there and doing outdoor things. However, for the last four years I've been working as a ski patroller at Sugarloaf

in Maine. I love my coworkers and the sense of community and purpose, so I was also glad to get back for the last few months of skiing.

—Class Correspondent: Henry Heyburn (hrheyburn@hotmail.com).

1980
Hope you had a chance to make it back for Reunion! Send us your stories from the weekend! Meanwhile, here’s some news about classmates.

Annie Cowherd and **Karen Jackson Birskey** got together for a fun lunch in Connecticut while Karen was back east visiting. It was so much fun reconnecting and reflecting on how great life is 45 years after graduation. **Annie’s** summers are full of competitive sailing, typically three nights a week on three different circuits up and down the Connecticut coast, as well as playing golf in a local league. In the last year, she has taken an extended trip traveling the California coast seeing lots of family and visiting her Manhattan Beach roommate from the ‘80s! Following her return, it was a windsurfing and wingfoiling (new) trip to Bonaire, which has become an annual habit. Another trip last fall to Spain, visiting her brother who teaches the fall architecture semester in Girona, allowed for visits to Costa Brava, Barcelona, and Madrid with secret amazing adventures along the route. The winter allows for the ski pass to be fully utilized. New freedom also allowed her the time to become fully immersed as Reunion chair for our 45th. “After 40+ years in the corporate world, it is great to take flight and pursue activities I have only dipped my toe into before.”

Karen and husband Greg Birskey ’79 retired last fall and are living a

fun next chapter, splitting the year between Tucson, Ariz., and Ludlow, Vt. “After working and raising kids in metro New York—while it had much to offer personally and professionally—living in less Type-A communities has been a joy. We’re particularly enjoying Tucson after living lives in the Northeast. Besides a great food and music scene, it’s wonderful to wake up in the morning and rarely have one’s outdoor plans cancelled due to rain or snow! With a daughter in LA and another in Burlington, Vt., the split residences make it easier to see both.” Karen was really excited to see everyone at our 45th but wasn’t sure if a first grandchild due May 20 in LA might throw a wrench in the plan.

Tim Rockwood reports he has been involved in the “male-dominated, self-promoting network TV world” for four decades. He is based on Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., in the summers where his friendship with **Ian Douglas** has only gotten closer. He is still involved with Ultimate Frisbee, which all started back with the founding of Pranksters Ultimate at Midd. He feels fortunate to still be in touch with Batts South second floor brothers, including **Rich Silton, Ron Pinsky, Simon Gerlin, Ricky Lowe, Dick Foote, Peter Curran, Scott Fleming, Doug Pierce, Kevin Smith, Gary Martin,** and **David Heires**. He was hoping they all would come back for the 45th as the farewell to Battell was not to be missed—it won’t be there for our 50th. The class toast to Battell was held Saturday afternoon of Reunion.

Nancy Cochran Crochiere is focused on keeping her butt in a chair long enough to finish her second novel, hoping to build on the success of her debut novel, *Graceland*, published with HarperCollins in 2023. The new novel is not a sequel, but she can’t tell you more about it because then she’d have to kill you. Distractions from writing include four grandsons and a whole new learning curve involving things like Snoos and swaddles and apps, oh my.

Sue Leppla took the opportunity to move from Colorado to Vermont in 2018 after a divorce and the sale of her house and business outside of Aspen. She lives in Waitsfield, close to her glassblowing brother and his wife, and is focused on her life as an artist. She started with sterling silver jewelry and then was nudged back into drawing due to the arthritis in her hands. She uses

fine artists felt tip ink pens on smooth gesso-covered boards to draw people and pet portraits in a cross-hatching style that harkens back to her days in the Johnson building with David Bumbeck. She sells her work in a local Waitsfield gallery and calls her business “Sue’s Better Life,” which it truly is. She loves skiing in the winter and mountain biking in the summer and is loving life.

Macy Lawrence has returned to the Pacific Northwest, where her older daughter and husband live, after a few years in Minnesota. Younger daughter and partner live in Denmark with their baby! “It’s hard to be a faraway grandparent but it makes for some lovely trips and reunions! I’m still working very part time doing research in the areas of mindfulness and resiliency with both families and educators and teaching parent/child mindfulness classes. Much of the work has been through the UNC School of Medicine and integrative medicine; I’m grateful to have wonderful colleagues and being able to work remotely! My free time involves year-round swimming outdoors, yoga, book clubs, pickleball, and some winter sports!”

Scott Russell has published his first novel, *A Beginner’s Guide to Electricity*, in which a modern psychedelic Tom Sawyer-type named Radkin runs away from home to seek his muse by writing a book just like he would build a fireplace—a sturdy structure in which to conjure a flickering warmth to enchant a lady. It takes a while. He crisscrosses Appalachia in an Econoline van with a steam-engine-styled band, volunteers at a turtle preserve in the Caribbean, and is hired as night watchmen at a veterinary hospital in Vermont. You can see a review on middleburymagazine.com.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Engle**, who was awarded the Child Neurology Society Bernard Sachs Award, given annually to honor someone of international status who has done leading research in neuroscience with relevance to the care of children with neurological disorders. As a child neurologist physician-scientist, Elizabeth single-handedly established a new field of investigation into disorders of cranial nerve development, and her research over the years has had an enormous impact in her field. She is a professor at Harvard Medical School and investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Some of your Reunion Committee 2025 members joined together to raise the \$125K required to establish the Class of 1980 Endowed Scholarship Fund. It will fund one student per year and will exist in perpetuity. A milestone for our class.

—Class Correspondents: *Anne Cowherd* (annie.cowherd@att.net); *Kimberly Winick* (Kimberly.winick@gmail.com).

1981 REUNION CLASS
Lots of news from the Class of ‘81! **Bret Bero** retired in August from his fourth career, teaching strategy, management, consulting, and leading business turnarounds at Babson College. He and Joan will be moving to Cape Cod in the spring of 2026 and are proud grandparents of three.

Jennifer Lanes Gozlan had a wonderful trip to the Loire Valley last summer and got to see **Dave Deutsch** while in NYC. Now retired, she enjoys watching her three-year-old grandson grow.

David Deutsch reports, “At 65 (okay, nearly 66), I’m somehow enjoying a career/life renaissance. I have three kids all succeeding in different directions: health care, film, and computer science. I’m as energized as ever about my investment banking firm’s activity with approx. 140 assignments under our belt and our 25th Saratoga Weekend (a.k.a. Camp David) this past summer. I’m feeling reasonably healthy for a ‘senior,’ continuing with triathlons and Krav Maga. Love the Midd community.”

Elizabeth Hopkins retired in July after over 35 years as a foreign service officer, “the best

job ever.” She thanks Professor John Keeler for steering her in the right direction and offering support way back when. She was planning to visit **Dan Conlin** at his lovely Sonoma, Calif., country house over July 4th weekend. She has kept in touch with classmates **Bettina Mak Tripp**, now in Seattle, and **John Griffith**, also a foreign service officer.

Bob Boissy retired from a career in science publishing this past January. He continues to volunteer for the Middlebury Alumni Admissions Program and enjoys listening to Middlebury Faculty at Home lectures. His latest adventure is singing tenor in local choir performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Alaskan **Heather Vuillet Lende** received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Alaska Anchorage last fall for contributions to Alaskan literature and community service. Chip ’79 and Heather have 12 grandchildren. The youngest is three and the oldest is 15. All but three are in Haines and Juneau, Alaska. Their son and his family live in Western Australia, which is a fun place to visit. Speaking of visiting, Midd friends are welcome in Haines, where Heather and Chip live.

In California, **Jim Taylor** reports he has been divorced for two years (a good thing) and has two daughters, 19 and 17, as well as a thriving performance-psychology practice working with high achievers in sports and business. He is cofounder and chief content officer of Mindto, a start-up creating a platform that empowers athlete performance, well-being, and mental health. And he’s staying as young and active as possible as a passionate age-group triathlete (two-time National Champion;

three-time World Championships medalist). Jim splits his time between homes in Marin County and the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Truckee, his happy place.

Diane Meyer Lowman sent this message last October: “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears! I’m chuffed to announce that I’ve been appointed to the board of Shakespeare Birthplace America, which supports the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust’s mission here across the pond. I look forward to spreading the word(s), words, words!” In April, Diane also enjoyed watching son Dustin Lowman ’15 perform at Voices Café in Westport, Conn., with classmates **Sally Rueger Barnes** and **Cathie Mazza-Christie**.

Linda Angeloni became a grandma in 2023 and retired from the Helium Analysis Lab at the University of Illinois in 2024. After 10 years away from her beloved Montana, she has moved back to the Bozeman area. She spends her time skiing, hiking, kayaking, and playing with grandkids.

On a sad note, **Lynn Gieg Peterson** of Davidson, N.C., died in June 2024. She attended Middlebury her freshman year (Stewart Hall) and transferred during our sophomore year to the University of Santa Barbara. Her obituary notes that she was an outdoors lover who enjoyed walks through the woods or along the beach. She enjoyed quilting, reading, puzzles, traveling, and most of all spending time with her husband and family.

Kim Wilson lives in Helena, Mont., where he’s approaching 40 years of practicing law (ouch), mostly environmental and natural resources law as partner in a small firm. More importantly, he spends lots of time on the nearby and not so nearby trails and slopes. “Not many Middlebury connections here, but in the past couple of years I’ve seen Ben Mathes ’80, Paul Villadolid ’80, and Stu Alden ’80. My two daughters both ended up on the West Coast, one, Charlotte, in LA, and my younger daughter, Mairin ’17.5, in Baja, Mexico. Both places offer my wife and me pleasant escapes from gray Montana winters.”

Christopher West reports, “The annual Midd ‘Johnson’ ski trip that has stretched for decades since 1994, had an added flavor this

year with many of us bringing along some of our kids. This year took us back to one of our favorites, Alta, where 18 of us ripped it up on top of a three-foot powder dump, day one. Our kids added the new spark we all needed both on the slopes and off. It was really amazing to watch the fun continue into the next generation. Past trips have included as many as 26 of us and as few as two of us. We predict the tradition to continue for decades ahead.”

Christine Goodman Smith traveled with Bozeman bestie **Anne Caudill Goertzen**, along with their husbands, to Antarctica and Argentina in January. An adventure trip of a lifetime!



Jon Fairbanks writes, “Time certainly has flown by. My wife, Marri, and I will be celebrating 30 years together in 2026. My daughter, Meredith (25), got her nursing degree from the Mass General Hospital (MGH) Institute of Health Professionals and began her nursing career at MGH in late August. My son, Cooper (27), has been working at Fidelity for the past two years and moved to Portsmouth, N.H. His office is in Merrimack, N.H., which is a longer commute, but living in such a vibrant little city is well worth it. Other than giving you a short update, I wanted to encourage our class to attend the upcoming 45th Reunion. In

early June, Dave McCary ’80 and I rode our motorcycles up to his 45th. The plan was for him to have his Reunion Saturday while I visited my cousin in Thetford. Sunday we would ride to Lake Placid via Grand Isle and then home on Monday. Saturday dawned very cloudy, cool, and rainy, not a good day for riding. So, the first thing I did was take a long walk around Midd’s campus. Since we graduated, the construction that has been done is astounding. A new Battell freshman dorm has just been completed and is beautiful. The science center, new dining facility, and the athletic complex are all very impressive. But all the new facilities are a bit overwhelming. One alum I ran into lamented the loss of austerity the old Middlebury had, which had been an important part of college and learning in general. I think I am somewhere in between.

What was really the most fun was spending time with the Class of 1980. I was given a lanyard in the 45th Reunion colors. Even though I was a year early, all the alums were very welcoming and gracious. Listening and talking to them about their lives was fascinating. So many different careers and interests. I met alums from California, Oregon, Michigan, and a surprising number from Vermont. All were so excited to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. There were lots of laughs, and mealtimes stretched out as old friends lingered and caught up. Everyone had a smile on their face and seemed happy and grateful that they made the effort to return to campus.

Plan on coming to our 45th next summer. Call a close or long-lost friend and inspire them to make the trip. See you next June!”

Check out photos of classmates on pages 59 and 65.

—Class Correspondent: *Alice Tower Knapp* (a.knapp.a@gmail.com).

1982
Keith O’Hara reports, “I’m embracing semi-retirement and so, like many, I’m busier than ever. I’m pleased to report a successful summit of a 15,000-foot+ Andean peak and a magical visit to Machu Picchu. After 22 years on the board at Marianapolis Prep, I’m back teaching AP Spanish and 21st-Century Novel and coaching tennis and soccer at the little Thompson, Conn., school!”

Kathy Havard sent this remembrance about **Betsy Conger**, who died on October 31, 2024: In September 1982, Betsy and I bought a used Ford Pinto wagon—the first car either of us had ever owned—and headed out on an epic cross-country adventure. We were moving to Seattle, a place we’d never been to and where we had no job prospects or qualifications beyond our recently minted Middlebury degrees. By the time we got to Cleveland, where **Chris Kelley** and **Lissa McKinley** joined us, we were already down two sleeping bags, which had flown off the top as soon as we’d picked up speed on the highway. We were all exhilarated and not-so-secretly terrified, and our main source of comfort? We were with Betsy. Never mind that she was our link to temporary housing once we arrived—we’d be staying with the Harrisons, a family from Betsy’s childhood neighborhood in New Jersey and just one example of her lifelong practice of staying deeply connected to the people she came to know. Our real source of comfort was Betsy herself, the most grounded, faithful, generous, and level-headed friend any of us could ever want. We knew if we stuck with her, we would be okay. And we were, through the adventures and heartbreak, laughter and grief that followed.

All through our time at Middlebury, those who knew Betsy knew her to be wholly and completely herself. We could coax her out for a birthday bash at Fire and Ice or nickel beers at the Alibi, or a crazy sailing trip to the Bahamas. But just as often, Betsy would choose her own alibi: the library, or Tom Root’s lab, or her favorite study spot on the top floor of the old science building. She was endlessly curious and hardworking and deeply committed to sustainability

and the health of our oceans before any of us really understood those things. (These were qualities that would serve her well while teaching high school biology and environmental science at the Loomis Chaffee School.) At Midd, if Betsy wanted to go to bed at 9:30 p.m., she would; no regrets. But if a friend needed a walk, an ice cream, a shoulder to cry on, a check-in in the midst of loneliness, or some asked-for advice, Betsy gave up everything to be there for her friends. I trusted her clear moral compass, discretion, and refusal to judge my crazy decision-making more times than I can count. And while I know none of the details, I know that Betsy was there for a lot of us like that, through college and beyond. She asked for nothing in return—but making Betsy laugh and showing up for her in small ways were some of life’s great joys.

We lost Betsy to cancer last October. She had beaten it 13 years before but last summer, it came back with a vengeance. She was sadly intimate with different forms of the disease, as a biologist, a cancer-survivor herself, and someone who nursed at least three close friends through the journeys with cancer that ended their lives. Meanwhile, she and I shared the unique, very full life of teaching at boarding high schools for the past 40 years, and we were too busy to see each other as often as we’d like. But we’d talk shop, and I know that her network of students, field hockey and softball players, and their parents brought her tremendous joy, pride, and satisfaction with the work she did. So too did her deep connections to Middlebury friends, nurtured at Reunions and Coach Bob Ritter’s retirement celebration. Bets had hopes for her own retirement: hosting friends and family at her beloved house in Sprucehead, Maine, and spending more mornings and twilight hours kayaking the peaceful and endlessly diverse coves she knew so well. And yet, Betsy was her fully present self for every visit, cup of coffee, thoughtful card or gesture, and every peaceful paddle she did have. She relished the quieter adventures of a life deeply lived. In our shared friendship, the Class of ’82 will carry Betsy’s spirit always.

Stephen Kiernan sent this remembrance for another classmate: In the game of rugby, when a player is tackled with the ball, play does not stop. Instead, the two teams form a spontaneous scrum, to push the other team’s scrum backward. The temptation, for any

player arriving at the mess, is to dive in and shove. But the team that wins usually does so because its players charge in two-by-two—even if it means waiting for a teammate to arrive. Anyone stepping onto a field with **Greg Howard**, who played rugby for four years at Middlebury, knew the experience of running toward a scrum and there he would be, one long arm raised as if to hug you under his wing. Together you would crash into the fray. And win. It is a fitting way to remember him, his fierce competitiveness and his friendship. Greg died on October 24, 2024, of a rare and degenerative neurological illness called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. Greg was raised in Marblehead, Mass. After Middlebury, he went to Suffolk University Law School, where he focused on energy regulatory issues. Settling with his family in Beverly, Mass., he practiced law while pursuing many other fascinations: racing outriggering canoes in the salt waters between Cohasset and Marblehead, developing a reverence for the muscular marches of John Philip Sousa, and participating in re-enactments of the Revolutionary War. He was proud to belong to the Glover Marblehead Regiment. In later years, Greg’s daily routine included going to a back room in the Beverly Public Library, where he would provide free legal advice to whomever needed it. His survivors include former wife Diane, daughter Hannah, and son Nate. Everyone in the family was well over six feet tall. The welcoming teammate’s arm has come down. In the spring, the Glover Marblehead Regiment fired his ashes from a cannon into the waters off of Marblehead.

—*Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).*

1983
Dan Elish sent word that he has published a novel, *King of Broadway*, in which he reimagines the outcome of an incident in his life. After he finished his children’s book, *The Worldwide Dessert Contest*, Dan thought it might make a good musical and sent it to Stephen Sondheim to see if he wanted to collaborate on one. Sondheim politely declined. In *King of Broadway*, the main character, 25-year-old Ben Willis, asks legendary composer Horatio King the same question. Check it out to see what happens! You can also read a review on middleburymagazine.com in Editors’ Picks.

—*Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).*

1984
Several ’84 classmates have been getting together on ski trips out west. Last year it was Aspen and this year it was Big Sky, Mont., in February. Check out a photo on page 83.

—*Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Smith Vaccaro (elizvaccaro@gmail.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).*

1985
Our 40th Reunion is in the rearview mirror, and it was a glorious weekend with well more than 100 classmates making the trip. Kudos to lead Reunion coordinators **Beth Dorian Wyer** and **John Denny**; to **Andy Gluck** and **Don Hall** for our class’s Convocation remarks; to **Cecil Barron Jensen** for leading a lovely and touching memorial gathering; and to **Jon Kelly** and **Andy Bell** for a jovial game night. It should also be acknowledged that the Class of 1985 won the Gordon C. Perine ’49 Award for the greatest increase in total class gift (non 25th or 50th Reunion edition). And special recognition to **Meg Storey Groves** on leading her final Convocation celebration before heading into retirement. (See a sidebar about Meg on page 61.)

Before the gathering, I reached out to our West Coast contingent to see what was going on. **Sara Ramseyer Klein** checked in from Oakland, Calif., where she and husband Tom have been in the same house for 30 years. Sara is the chief legal officer at Alumis, a biopharmaceutical company in South San

Francisco, while Tom retired in 2022 from a fun career in employment law representing executives. Their daughter, Julia, lives in NYC and will finish her Doctor of Nursing Practice at Columbia later this year, hoping to return to the Bay Area as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Their son, Will, lives in Berkeley and is a resident hospital chaplain at Kaiser.

Claire Wrenn Bobrow writes, “For the last few years I’ve been learning how to write children’s books and, after a journey that was a drama in itself, I’m delighted to say my first book released in August—*When BUMblebees Go to Sleep*. I have two more books coming in 2026 and hopefully more in the future! I also work part time at Bookshop West Portal in San Francisco, which has been a lot of fun.”

Anne DiVecchio Foster lets us know that she retired from Charles Schwab in 2024, noting that it was a great place to spend the last decade of her commercial career. She and husband John split time between Colorado and Florida. Their three sons are launched, with two in Florida and one in Colorado: “So we see them a lot which is absolutely the best!”

Betsey Herdman was full of news. “We had a Midd ’85 minireunion at Stinson Beach, Calif., last August. My husband, **Dave (Goldstein)**, and I cohosed with our classmate and neighbor, **Ned Brown**. Our Midd friends of 40+ years attended: **John McIntosh**, **Gary Oakley**, **Jane Harvey**, **Charlie Curtis**, **David** and **Heather Kelly-Hedrick**, **David** and **Martha Punderson Graf**, Tom Gavigan ’86, and Geoff Hale ’84. John Hill ’86 popped by Saturday afternoon. We had a great weekend BBQing, swimming, boogie boarding,

and catching up.” Betsey let me know that she and Dave have transitioned full time to their Stinson Beach house from their Mill Valley home since the pandemic. Their four 20-something children initially joined them, but have since dispersed to San Francisco, Denver, NYC, and Mammoth. Dave is a partner in an investment firm/hedge fund in Mill Valley, and they’ve started traveling a bit as empty nesters.

Daxing Zhang is so sorry he missed everyone at the 40th Reunion. He informs us that he recently coproduced a Hemingway novel-based feature film, *Across the River and into the Trees*. The film stars Liev Schreiber (*Ray Donovan*) and Josh Hutcherson (*The Hunger Games*). As an actor, Daxing also played the second lead in a Polish feature film, *Minghun*, opposite Marcin Dorozinski (*Queen’s Gambit*, *Mission Impossible 7 & 8*) and played a pivotal role in *The Embers*, a major Taiwan film production starring Chen Chang (*Dune*). All three movies came out in late 2024. Daxing still lives in LA with his wife, Julie (admitted by Middlebury (!) but a Holy Cross grad, ’87). His son, Shane, is a senior at Yale and his daughter, Charlotte, is a junior at UC Berkeley.

Chris Dougherty and **Steven Saltzman** had a mini-reunion at the Tedeschi Trucks Band concert at New York’s Beacon Theater on May 24, 2025. The former Paris roommates during their junior year abroad hadn’t seen each other since graduation, but via Facebook they discovered a shared interest in the band. Chris said, “It was like no time had passed at all. One of my great memories from Paris was going with Steven and **Tom Amos** to shows that they had recommended. Some people have golf and ski reunions. I guess we’re the ones who do live-music reunions.” Steven added, “The show was spectacular, and the real topper was seeing Chris after all these years and meeting her husband, Mark. We reminisced about junior year—Chris reminded me of the blowout Thanksgiving party I hosted in November 1983 where we literally rolled up the rug in my apartment for dancing. Fond memories.”

Steven and his wife, Marcy, live in Mendham Township, N.J., and Steven just started his 20th year at *Consumer Reports*, where he is the director of digital operations. Chris and Mark live on Mount Desert Island, Maine, where she is the multilingual learner

implementation coordinator/ESOL teacher for the MDIRSS/AOS #91 school district.

See a photo of 1985 birthday celebrations in Bermuda on page 77.

—*Class Correspondent: Dale Sailer (dalesailer@gmail.com).*

1986
REUNION CLASS
Last year was full of 60th birthday celebrations and adventures, which included getting together with treasured college friends.

Scott Davison and **Thor Tyson** traversed part of the Milford Track in New Zealand last April.

Sharon Lesser Maguire reports she had a solid Midd contingent at her 60th birthday celebration last August. In attendance were **Michael Strong**, John White ’88, **Betsy Wissinger**, **Matt Menard**, Jack Maguire ’27.5, Andrea Scoppetta ’88, and Susanna Green ’88.

In early November, **Julie Morris Ogden**, **Wendy Fisher Beach**, **Jennifer Blake**, **Monica Carroll**, **Becky Spahr Frazier**, **Kate Wallace Perrotta**, **Sue Whittey**, **Lisa Cheney Sullivan**, and **Pam Grady MacMullen** all met up in Chicago for a “Year of the 60” celebration. They proudly sported around the city with their Middlebury College baseball caps. **Sarah Christel Scully** was not able to make it, but she has relocated from Jackson Hole, Wyo., back to Middlebury!

Congratulations to **Kirk Fleischer** on his marriage to Samatha Lavon in Paris! Middlebury folks celebrating with him were **Dave Hewett**, **Hugh Montgomery**, **Ed Eppler**, **Mike Hering**, Sarah Dumke ’89, and

Kirk’s daughter, Arlo Fleischer ’21.5. **John Moyers** was supposed to officiate but could not attend due to a death in the family.

Our 40th Reunion is next June 5–7! Please contact me at the email below if you’d like to help with the activities for our class!

—*Class Correspondent: Heather Pierce Post (heatherdpierce@gmail.com).*

1987
Nick Wong writes, “After a 28-year high school teaching career (first in England then in the Bay Area), I ultimately moved with my wife, Caroline, from San Francisco up to Sonoma Mountain in Sonoma County in 2018. The first five years were spent renovating an old barn and landscaping two acres along permaculture principles. Our place is known as Sonoma Flow Farm and we now Airbnb our place as ‘Wine Country Gem—1h from SF.’ Water comes from our well, power from the sun, and a small share of our fruit and vegetables from our garden. Caroline runs practical arts classes (glass, mosaics, and soapmaking), while I’ve partially re-invented myself as a fine art photographer. My work can be seen on my website at www.wo-menimage.com.”

Dominic Napolitano writes, “Each year for the last several years, a group of us from the Class of 1987 have gone skiing. This year we were in Park City. Those attending included **Pete Britz**, **John DeVine**, **Mark Pomfret**, **John Ward**, **Mark Williams**, **Chris Dayton**, **Sean Dunphy**, **Brian Smith**, and me.”

Emily Ferman says, “My husband and I threw a birthday party for our 60th birthdays at our house in Lexington, Mass., in June with friends **Jennifer Mennella Cain**, **Nick Mazzamurro**, and **Beth Winters Porter**.”

“We spent a great weekend in Providence, R.I., to celebrate our 60th birthdays,” writes **Nancy Ilgenfritz**. She and **Barb Marvin Nozaki**, **Tammie Worthington-Witczak**, **Erika Donovan Estades**, **Anne Martin Holt**, **Laura Mullahy**, and **Greg** and **Amy Beckwith Lupica** gathered for the milestone birthdays. “We met at Amy and Greg’s house in Providence for a weekend filled with Midd memories.” Nancy also had a mini-reunion with a family friend and you can see a photo on page 59.

Several 1987 classmates were part of a cultural immersion trip to Cuba that was led by **Tim Weed**. Check out a photo on page 77!

Sadly, we learned that **Glenn May** died on February 7, 2025. Our condolences go to his family.

— *Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).*

1988
— *Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatkojones@gmail.com).*

1989
— *Class Correspondent: George Baxter (george.baxter@me.com).*

1990
Gordon Streeter and his wife of 27 years live with their two dogs in Madison, Conn., less than one mile from the beach. Their eldest daughter (of two) is in college in NYC. The Streeters have lived in the New Haven area for 20 years and they have had chickens for nearly half this time! They currently have seven chickens and every few years



they get a few more. Gordon is a pediatrician with an immensely satisfying job working for Yale Health, where he's been over 13 years, seeing kids of university employees and students. The last time Gordon visited Middlebury was in 2023 when his brothers and he brought their father, Sabin Streeter '63, to his 60th reunion, which was joyful.

Carolyn Kuebler, the editor in

chief of the quarterly *New England Review*, based at Middlebury College, was a finalist for the Vermont Book Award 2024 in the fiction category for her debut novel, 20 years in the making! *Liquid, Fragile, Perishable* portrays life in a small Vermont town, with a plot that draws comparisons to Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. As Jim Schley wrote in *Seven Days*, "The fictional Glenville is a town that many Vermonters will recognize." You can read a review, written by Maria Padian '83, at middleburymagazine.com. Congratulations, Carolyn!

— *Class Correspondents: Doug Meyer (pdoug@aol.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).*

1991 REUNION CLASS
Karen Harper writes, "Two of my best friends from Middlebury and I had a mini-reunion last fall. **Mary Castner Overholt** was my roommate freshman year and **Paula Davidson**'s room was a few doors down from us. We have been friends ever since. I had not seen either of them in about 15 years, and the three of us had not been together for almost 20 years. In November I went to Montreal for a Chocolate Festival (I live in Halifax, Canada) and they drove up from Vermont and Massachusetts so we could spend the day together. We had a great time exploring a vegan festival, climbing up Mont Royal, and eating Ethiopian food—much nicer than just meeting on Zoom!"

Tom Chambers has left the cold and snow of Buffalo, N.Y., for the heat and hurricanes of New Orleans, La. He started a new job as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Loyola University New Orleans. "Drop me a line if you're visiting the Crescent City and want to discover a lesser-known, yet outstanding, restaurant. They're everywhere!"

Don't forget our 35th Reunion is June 5–7, 2026!

— *Class Correspondent: Andrew Resnik (resnikandrew@gmail.com).*

1992
Congratulations to **Eric Puchner**, whose novel *Dream State* was published this past winter and then selected for the Oprah Book Club. You can find an interview Eric had with Oprah on YouTube and can read a review of

the book on middleburymagazine.com.

Congratulations also to **Annie Rimoin**, who received the Roger Detels Distinguished Researcher Award in Infectious Disease Epidemiology from the Society for Epidemiologic Research. The award is given to an outstanding scholar with extraordinary contributions to the research field of infectious disease epidemiology. Along with her work as a professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, she is the director of both the UCLA-Democratic Republic of the Congo Health Research and Training Program and the UCLA Center for Global and Immigrant Health.

— *Class Correspondents: David Boyle (davemboyle@gmail.com); Leslie Cone Pagnotta (lesliepagnotta917@gmail.com).*

1993
John Linder sent a (delayed) recollection of a January Middlebury mini-reunion, hosted by **Tom Lyons** in Gainesville, Fla., and attended by **Emilio Nunez, Ben Small, Josh Miller, David Ferris, Ellen Raynor, Chad Bryan, Chris Piehler, Gilbert Prado, Jon Rothstein, Pam Daigle Ault**, and Tom and John. "It is a tribute to our January reunion that the 'high points' of the gathering were so numerous as to prohibit me listing them all in the space allotted. I must leave room for other triumphs of the Class of '93, although I guarantee none of them were as exciting or inspiring as the one I describe here. You published a self-help book, had your seventh kid, or won a Nobel Prize? Big deal. There will be plenty of room for your exploits (yawn) in the next issue.

So much winning. There was a sacred pilgrimage to the Lynx bookstore, a great manatee hunt, and a bonfire that was all smoke and no flame. As if that wasn't

enough, two Texans of Hispanic origin beat two albino-Caucasians at a game of cornhole. There was a midnight run, when three of us ran into the night before splitting into three separate directions, playing Gainesville roulette with our lives. Incidentally, only two of us, once we'd met up again, were pursued by a car and its menacing bass. There was a rip-roaring concert performance by Southern Culture on the Skids, inspiring a surge of stage-stomping dervishes, consisting of equal parts Midd reunion group and nimble geriatric devotees. There was a spontaneous obstacle challenge in a park, foisted on the participants only after a bodacious brunch stuffing and the consumption of gallons of Bloody Marys. The fact that there were no serious injuries suffered by the intrepid athletes has to mean something, but I haven't been able to figure out what. It is worth a mention that outside of the obstacle challenge, there were plenty of injuries sustained. These ranged from subconjunctival hemorrhage to acute tarsalgia.

All in all, a great reunion of great friends."

Chad Bryant, a professor of history at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, recently traveled to New York City to attend a conference of historians at Columbia University. This prompted a gathering with other '93 alums from the NYC area, who were happy to have the opportunity to see and catch up with their friend Chad. **Heather Micati, David Ferris, Jon Rothstein**, and **Josh Miller** had a delicious lunch and drinks with Chad on the rooftop deck of the Brass Monkey in the West Village. Afterwards, the five of them walked the length of the High Line. It was a beautiful day in Manhattan—cool and refreshingly breezy—to be outdoors and to stroll the famous elevated-rail-road-track-turned-elevated-park. It was a fun and memorable get-together for the five alums from the Class of '93!

This past winter, the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation announced that **Kiley Walsh O'Meara** had been named the new executive director of the foundation. For the previous year she was serving as the director of strategy and learning.

As was reported in a previous class column, several '93 classmates met up in New Orleans for a mini-reunion. Check out a photo on page 83.

CELEBRATIONS



1. In Sausalito, California, Lauren Alper '16 and J Whelan '16 were married on October 28, 2023, surrounded by their Middlebury family and friends: (all '16 unless noted) Ian Bearden, the newlyweds, Rick Whelan '84, Hannah Robinson, Claire Nishioka Robinson '15, Delaina Smith Minno '17, (second row) Isabelle Stillman, Anna Kenyon, Zoe Carey, Gigi Alper '20, Anthea Viragh, Max Araya, Charlie Garcia '15, Brian Rowett, (third row) Garrett Werner, Johnny Luke, Jack Shanley, Lauren Amos Campbell, Sarah Cox, Christine Urquhart Krieger '17, Sadie Shackelford, Eliza Teach, Matt Minno, Palmer Campbell, and Deklan Robinson. Missing from photo: Corinne Milbury and Jon Broome.

2. A group of friends from the Class of 1976 gathered at Elm Hill Farm in Johnsonville, NY, for a weekend reunion: (seated) Joe McLaughlin, Gene O'Neill, Remsen Paul, Steve Rodgers, (standing) Tony Pagliarulo, Jim Dunn, John O'Brien, Todd Wadsworth, Jim Vear, Jim Kernan, Paul Tierney, and Doug Webb. Missing: Jared Cadwell.

3. Adil Husain '01 was joined by several good friends when he celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary at his home in Potomac, Md: Adeeb Mahmud '01, James Meader '02, Adil, and Henry Flores '01.

4. On October 7, 2023, Maggie Crollius '09 and Christian Greer were married at Wentworth by the Sea Country Club in Rye, N.H. Many Middlebury friends celebrated with the couple: (all '09 unless noted) Maya Garcia Kushmaul, the newlyweds, Marisa Porter, Catherine Michalek, (second row) Daniel Ruth, Max Sinsheimer, Garrett Saito, Blake Berman, Brian Marcks, Andrew Matson, Robert Koeller, Caroline Wade, Jonathan Williams '10, and Hunter Chamberlain '12.

5. To celebrate their 60th birthdays, a group of Stewart Hall freshmen buddies from 1985 made a trip to Bermuda: David Potier, Paul Richardson, Dave Shaw, Michael Donovan, Jim Boyd, Jim MacKay, and Regan Remillard.

6. Many Midd alums joined in a cultural immersion trip to Cuba, led by Tim Weed '87, and took this photo at the Bay of Pigs: (kneeling) Amy Cleaves Milanek '87, Tim, Kate Sly Dando '87, (standing) Mathew Bacon '87, Shelly Ziegelman (Midd partner), Trish Clary '87, Amy Zecher Bucher '87, Ann Poletti '87, Lindsay Cazel Ferrington (Midd friend), Gail Harrison Hubbard '87, Paul Hubbard (Midd spouse), and Eileen Brennan (Midd friend).

—Class Correspondent: John Linder (john.linder93@gmail.com).

1994
Ben Kimball reports that in the spring of 2024, his new guide-book, *Trail Running Southern Vermont*, came out. Published by University of Massachusetts Press, it profiles 51 of the best trail-running sites in the region (basically the entire southern half of the state). While written specifically for trail runners, the book is also great for hikers and walkers looking to explore new trails and places. It’s the third in a series that includes guidebooks for western Massachusetts and eastern Massachusetts. Since Ben started working for UMass Press (as a production editor) in December 2023, he is donating all sales royalties for it to Vermont Adaptive, an organization dedicated to providing access to adventures in the outdoors for people with disabilities. In their words, “Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports is committed to empowering individuals with disabilities. We promote independence and further equality through access and instruction to sports and recreational activities regardless of ability to pay. Vermont Adaptive provides a place where youth and adults with disabilities gain a measure of self-confidence and independence.” Check out the book on Amazon or on the UMass Press website.

—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns94@gmail.com); Gene Swift (geneswift@gmail.com).

1995
Aaron Mendelsohn was recently named deputy general counsel for policy and compliance at the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). Aaron and his wife, Aviva, live on the Upper West Side with five-year-old Rosie and two-year-old Ari. If

you’re in or near the city and have kids in the same age range, let’s make a playdate!

Sadly, we learned that **Kelly Hefner** died on March 20, 2024. Our condolences go to her family.

—Class Correspondent: Julie Moriarty McDonough (juliemcdonough@gmail.com).

1996 REUNION CLASS
As part of the Middlebury Alums Global Sustainability Speaker Series last fall, **Umar Serajuddin** gave a talk called “Connecting data dots between people, prosperity, and the planet,” a conversation based on the findings of the World Bank’s Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024: Pathways Out of the Polycrisis, which provided the first postpandemic global assessment of poverty and shared prosperity. Umar is a manager at the World Bank’s Development Data Group, in charge of its indicators and data services unit.

In the summer of 2024, **Casey Kelbaugh** walked out of his apartment building in New York City and headed north on the Long Path, a little-known trail that extends from the 175th Street subway station in Manhattan and runs to Thacher State Park, just south of the Adirondack Mountains. His destination was his house in Edgewood, where he had first seen a trail marker for the Long Path. After 27 days and roughly 300 miles of walking, he arrived at his property. He published an article in *The New York Times* about his adventure, including beautiful photos taken along the way. He is now working on a book called *The Long Path*.

Please put our 30th Reunion on your calendars for June 5–7, 2026!

—Class Correspondent: Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim (humbertogs@gmail.com).

1997
Jason Shellhaas sent word last fall that wife **Renée (Camfield)** had been awarded the prestigious Child Neurology Society (CNS) Hower Award, given annually to honor a child neurologist and member of the CNS who is highly regarded as an outstanding teacher and scholar, with emphasis placed on contributions to child neurology on national and international levels. Renée is internationally renowned in pediatric

epilepsy, and a master in the field of neonatal epilepsy and neonatal sleep studies. She is the David T. Blasingame Professor of Neurology and senior associate dean for faculty promotions and career development at Washington Univ. in St. Louis.

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jcarbee@gmail.com); Jackie Pelton Hoglund (jackiehoglund@gmail.com).

1998
David Barrutia was overjoyed to congratulate his Spanish student at Salisbury School, Will Judge, as a member of the Class of 2029. Will also scored the winning goal in their pickup soccer game. Let’s go Panthers!

David and family also welcomed 1998ers to their house for a mini-reunion. See a photo on page 65.

—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katiecomstock3@gmail.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com); Shruthi Mahalingaiah (shruthi@hsph.harvard.edu).

1999
—Class Correspondent: Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).

2000
It is always with a heavy heart that I must report the untimely loss of classmates. Our classmate **Oregon “OJ” Shearin** passed away on February 12, 2024, and our classmate **Brian Hennelly** passed away on February 27, 2024. Other classmates lost too soon—**Erin Carr Adams, Adam Barron, Paul Dome, and Patrick Kelly**—were honored with a memorial toast at Reunion. Through the years, we’ve all shared in joys and sorrows together. Feel free to share

memories of classmates, or of Reunion, with me and I will be glad to publish them in these notes. Please also send along your own updates! And be well my friends.

—Class Correspondent: Jennifer Crystal (jennifercrystalwriter@gmail.com).

2001 REUNION CLASS
After five years, **Kelvin Roldán** stepped down as deputy commissioner of education for the state of Rhode Island. Currently, he is a visiting lecturer in education at Brown University and commissioner in residence at Amira Learning. Amira is an artificial intelligence, science of reading, and brain science company that produces significant and immediate reading gains for students. In November 2024, Kelvin enjoyed a trip to Massachusetts to celebrate the bar mitzvah of **Corey** and **Kate Griffiths Wilk’s** son, Myles, along with **Matt** and **Leslie Fox Arnould, David Cohen, and Kristen Sylva Capodilupo**.

Mariah McKechnie writes, “I am excited to share that my daughter, Josephine Fadziewicz, accepted an offer of admission to the Middlebury College Class of ’29.5! We are so excited to continue our family legacy at Midd.”

Keegan and Martha Crooto’04 **Uhl** reside in Burbank, Calif., with their daughter (5) and son (9). Martha works as a marriage and family therapist, and Keegan is a screenwriter and the owner of One Star Leather Goods (happy to make you a wallet or belt!). He has also taken up tenkara fly-fishing in the California mountains.

This spring, **BL Reid** and wife Emilie acquired the business assets of Farmtrue and relaunched the company. “We offer face and body care products, Ayurvedic tea and spice blends, premium ghee, and more. We’d love to hear from Midd alums and entrepreneurs who appreciate and support the local and small business life, so shoot us an email or find us online!”

Jason Ienner reports, “My company, Audigent, of which I was employee 10 in 2020 and where I had been leading the entertainment division, was acquired by Experian last December. Also, my wife, Mariah, played a part in the latest season

of *And Just Like That* on Max this past spring.”

Lisa Yamner Green raised \$50M in VC funding for her new venture, Daydream, which launched in May. “We are your fashion agent and will be reinventing the way customers shop online for fashion. Sign up for the waitlist at daydream.ing.”

Devon O’Neil recently published a new book called *The Way Out: A True Story of Survival in the Heart of the Rockies*. It chronicles the mysterious disappearance of a U.S. Forest Service ranger and a 15-year-old boy during a backcountry hut trip in January 2017, which involved three families from the small mountain town of Salida, Colo. HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins, published it in November.

Molly Holmberg Brown writes, “While I’m still doing MollyMaps, I took a day job as an admissions counselor at Bates College. I love being part of a liberal arts community again!” Check out a photo of some classmates on page 77. We hope to see everyone at our 25th Reunion, June 4–7, 2026!

—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Zach Bourque (zacharybourque@gmail.com).

2002
Thankfully, the Class of 2002 has had more uplifting news this year than a year ago at this time. It is so inspiring to see so many classmates enjoying life and travels in such a wide variety of locations around the world.

Curtis Swope reports that he and wife Kathryn O’Rourke (Wellesley ’02) are moving to Wellesley, Mass., after living for 15 years in San Antonio, Texas. They will both be professors at Wellesley College. Their kids

Patrick (12) and Miranda (8) are excited about the move, and everyone is happy to be back in the Northeast. They would love to connect with Midd folks in the area, so don’t hesitate to look them up!

Virginia Snodgrass Rangel had been living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with her family since late July of 2023, for her husband’s job. They enjoyed traveling around the country, from Iguazu Falls to the end of the world in Ushuaia. They were looking forward to a visit from fellow Midd Kid, Connie Winner ’06.5, in March and then were moving back to Houston at the end of June.

Devon Sigman loved her second year of teaching middle school science and coaching high school track at the Seoul International School in Seoul, South Korea. Check out her family’s travel vlog at youtube: trailmix vlog.

Anya Smith began working as a gardener in the Tuileries Gardens of Paris, France (Louvre Museum) on March 1, 2025. Her five children are all doing well, four working through the French school system (one in preparatory math, physics, engineering sciences; one in St. Cyr military high school; and two still in junior high) and the oldest working in Idaho. She hopes to say hello to Middlebury tourists passing through Paris soon!



Nick Vail loves being back at home on the coast of Maine. Working at the University of New England in Biddeford, he enjoys spending quality time in nature with family and recently earned his Wilderness First Responder certification. He’s also been offering meditation instruction for students at Camp Chewonki and looks forward to offering a weekend workshop on meditating in nature at Karmê Chöling, a meditation retreat center in Vermont. You can check out what he’s up to at mindpioneer.com.

Last September, **Meghan Dwyer Lehr, Eliza Johnson, Kara Leibel Evans, Mandy Smeal, Jackie Spring Dimitri ’01, Becky Swenson, and Katie Tallon** met up for

a mini-reunion. Spread out between California, Texas, Arizona, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and New York, they met up in Austin, Texas, for a weekend of adventures on the ropes course, relaxation at the spa, and plenty of time reminiscing about their days of Midd swimming.

See a photo **Sean Hoskins** sent on page 65.

As always, thanks for your updates and for keeping in touch—we couldn’t do this without you! Please continue to write in with your life updates: middlebury02@gmail.com. We hope to hear from more and more of you each year!

—Class Correspondents: Meg Roach Booth (megbooth5@gmail.com); Kara Leibel Evans (kblevans30@gmail.com).

2003
Nathan Davis sent this note: “We have decried the woes of social media in recent years, but in a bright silver lining, Instagram and decades-long friendships found me sharing paella and belly laughs with recent expats **Angela Boulart** and **Damian Washington** in Madrid last November. Proof positive of the truly small world and global family that the College helps to create.”

Andrew Savage, vice president of sustainability and a member of the founding team of Lime, the e-bike rental company, was recently named to the Time100 Climate List. Through Andrew’s leadership, Lime supported approximately 156 million e-bike trips globally, all powered by renewable energy.

Kyle Dezotell was recently inducted into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame. While at Middlebury, Kyle set men’s

soccer program records for the number of goals (34), assists (22), and points (90). He was also a member of the Panthers’ Nordic ski team. He is currently the head coach of the men’s soccer team at Tufts University.

Last winter gave **Kevin** and **Heather Tory Dougherty**, Melanie and Adam Sureau ’05, Andrew Feinberg ’04, and Julianna Muir ’04 lots of time together on the ski slopes of Vermont, cheering on the Okemo Competition Center’s U12 girls and their next-generation Midd Kids, Madeleine Dougherty, Sophie Sureau, and Lauren Feinberg, along with Patrick Dougherty. The highlight of the season was returning to the Middlebury Snowbowl for a (cold!) race in early March.

—Class Correspondents: Lisa Jasinski (lmjasinski@gmail.com); John Morgenstern (jdmorgens@gmail.com).

2004
Last winter Middlebury Athletics did an Alumni Spotlight on **Rebecca Brakeley Wall**, asking her about her time playing field hockey and lacrosse at Midd and about her current activities. At the time of the interview, she was the interim chief medical officer, chief of women’s and children’s health, and a pediatric specialist for Central Maine Healthcare. She also helped husband Jesse create TruStrength Tomorrow, a nonprofit organization that provides youth with opportunities to access indoor and outdoor fitness and mentorship programs and eliminates financial barriers to participation. She and Jesse have three children, Olive, Henry, and Lincoln.

—Class Correspondents: Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (atheniarodney@gmail.com); Drew Pugsley (drew.pugsley@gmail.com).

2005
Emma Sabiiti spent some time with family in D.C. last summer, where he caught up with **Erich Kahner**. Emma and his family also traveled back home to Uganda and the kids enjoyed catching up with cousins, uncles, and aunts; they took in the sun and caught up with nature at the amazing Queen Elizabeth National Park in Western Uganda.

Nicha Rakpanichmanee married Daniel Hitchcock (Georgia Tech ’08) in October 2023 on Cumberland Island, Ga. Middlebury guests included Professor



Horse Sense

Middlebury has a vibrant equestrian scene.

You don’t need to know how to ride a horse to be part of Middlebury’s Equestrian Club. Beginners are welcome and, as a matter of fact, are necessary for the club to compete in collegiate equestrian shows. Teams must have all levels of talent, from novice to experienced riders.

You also don’t need your own horse. The team members practice at the Eddy Farm School—a horse farm a few miles from campus—with their coaches, Kate Selby, who founded the club, and Margaret Bojanowski, who manages the farm and is the riding director.

The club had its beginnings in 1994 when Selby, a competitive rider herself, bought a farm in New Haven, Vermont, that came full of horses that boarded there. Some of their owners worked at the College, and when they came to ride, they would sometimes bring students. One day one of those students asked Selby if she would coach a college equestrian team. Selby was interested but not sure how to proceed. She contacted the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA), the governing body for college competition, and asked what she should do. “Basically, they said fill out the paperwork and pay them money,” says Selby.

The club has been active ever since, competing against other club sport and varsity teams in New England in the form of riding called hunt seat equitation, which is judged on the rider and the rider’s effectiveness in communicating with the horse. There’s a level of competition for everyone.

Beginners might compete in the introductory walk/trot; someone a bit more skilled might compete in the advanced walk/trot/canter; while the experienced riders jump fences in their divisions. The shows take place in the fall and spring with riders gathering points to possibly move on to regional, zone, and national competitions.

But here’s why you don’t need your own horse. One of the IHSA’s rules is that everyone participating in a show rides a horse they’ve never ridden before. The students arrive at the venue and can watch the horses warming up, but they basically pull a name out of a hat to find out which one they’ll be on. Then they’re judged on their performance on an unfamiliar horse.

Team members train for that weekly at the Eddy Farm. A beginning rider may start out learning how to groom and how to handle horses safely before they get on a horse. Brenae’ Ervin ’26 was one of those newbies. “My first lesson was one of the best experiences I have had! My coach went through the basics, and I started out walking/trotting in my first semester before competing.”

More experienced riders take advantage of the coaches’ expertise to build on their skills. Fiona Stern ’28 has been riding since she was young. “Through my lessons on the team, I have bettered my horsemanship skills, my equitation, and my confidence.”

But even more importantly, the club members build a close relationship around a shared love. Says Ervin, “It’s an amazing experience!”

John Huddleston, **Cara Lovell Arduengo, Naomi Cookson,** and **Jasmin Johnson**. Prof. Huddleston teaches a winter term class on mindfulness. Cara is a speech therapist in Montpelier, Vt. Naomi cofounded a fitness studio, Devilfish Athletics, in Brooklyn. Jasmin works in development/public policy based out of Kuala Lumpur and Zurich. Nicha is a public defender in Rome, Ga. Check out a photo on page 59.

Khairani “Okka” Barokka has been living in London since 2015 (went there for her PhD and then stayed) but tries to go back to Indonesia as often as possible. She was back on the East Coast of the U.S. in March, after more than a decade, to deliver a lecture and workshop at Princeton. You can connect with her [khairanibarokka.com](#).

Ellen Whelan-Wuest and **Megan James**, former Midd suitemates and Mischord compatriots, are both currently serving as local elected officials in the Middlebury area. Ellen has been on the Addison Central School District board for two years, and Megan was elected to the Middlebury selectboard. Megan’s dad recently discovered both of their campaign signs in his garage and convinced them to pose for a cutesy photo in front of their old dorm (the aptly named Voter Hall) to commemorate their public service (photo to appear in a future issue).

Dominique Ahkong published a set of poems in the *Southern Review*, a renowned literary magazine. Dominique is a writer and lives with her husband, Johnny, in an off-grid community in the high central desert region of Arizona. Well done, Dom!

—Class Correspondents: **Jasmin Johnson** ([johnson.jasmin@gmail.com](#)); **Anywhere Sikochi** ([asikochi@gmail.com](#)).

2006 REUNION CLASS
Don’t forget to put our 20th Reunion on your calendar: June 5–7, 2026!

—Class Correspondents: **Alex Casnocha** ([alexander.casnocha@gmail.com](#)); **Jack Donaldson** ([jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com](#)).

2007
In April, **Mary Ting Hyatt**’s bagel bakery, Bagelsaurus, was recommended by WCVB as the place to go to carbo load before the

Boston Marathon. Located in Porter Square in Cambridge, Mass., the bakery has become a popular spot to go for bagels and the creative combinations they come up with like Jumbo, a classic egg and cheese with mustard butter slathered on both sides. Last year, Mary and her team went to Bagelfest in New York and were voted Best of the Fest with their pretzel bagel with honey rosemary cream cheese.



Last February, **Gruia Badescu, Naomi Haefner, Alex Hunter,** and **Jasmin Johnson** ’05 had a mini-reunion at Naomi and Alex’s home in St. Gallen, Switzerland. The get-together was full of laughter and good food (thanks to master chef Alex). See a photo on page 59.

—Class Correspondent: **N. Bhatia** ([middlebury2007@gmail.com](#)).

2008
Last spring, Tatanka, a reggae band from Denver, played as part of Thunder River Theatre’s Pink to Black concert series in Carbondale, Colo. **Andrew Maloney** plays bass and keyboards in the band that describes its sound as “danceable tunes and positive vibes.” The band has toured across the U.S. and Canada, played a multitude of festivals, and released albums and singles.

—Class Correspondents: **Laura Lee Mittelman** ([laurawhitneylee@gmail.com](#)); **JeeYeon Park** ([jeeyeonp@gmail.com](#)).

2009
Lorena Jiron and David Hamberlin ’10 welcomed baby girl Lyra Hamberlin in December of last year. Lorena writes, “I want to give a special shout-out to **Leslie Stonebraker, Avery Finch, Sarah Elkhayat, Diana Chiu,** and **Chelsea Utterback**. Our constant texting and friendship helped get me through the pregnancy and the time afterwards.”

Bobby Gosney and **Maeve Whelan-Wuest** both live in Portland, Ore., and are colleagues at Nike. They catch up for lunches, coffees, and the occasional basketball coaching session!

Bobby says, “I still struggle with left-hand dribbling despite Maeve’s excellent coaching.”

Jesse Keenan married Hannah Dumont in September of 2023 in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass. Their child, Hudson, joined the family in December 2024, and they live in Somerville, Mass. Jesse works as division VP and business unit manager for Paragon Medical-Advanced Surgical. Check out the wedding photo on page 83.

Emily Jacobs started a new job as a pediatrician in western Maine. She writes, “Otherwise, I am enjoying teaching my two little guys to ski at our local ski mountain.”

Alex Grieves writes, “I’ve been living in London since 2014, and I recently became a dual U.S.-UK citizen. The year 2024 brought with it some exciting professional changes for me: after 12 years in brand strategy and advertising at WPP and independent agencies, I pivoted into the built environment. I am undertaking a part-time global urbanism MA at UCL The Bartlett while working in strategy at a placemaking consultancy. It’s been great to see Midd friends like **Bobby Gosney, Sakura Yagi,** and **Jess Jong** come through, as well as spend time with fellow Londoner Liz Edouard Savory ’10. I’d love to catch up with anyone passing through the Big Smoke!”

Febs **Dave Small, Forrest Orme, Rich Saunders, Haik Kavookjian, Eric Harvey,** and **Sam Libby** all met for a few days of skiing at the Alta Peruvian Lodge in Utah. “With a cumulative 10 kids under 6 between us, it was quite a feat to get away.”

Katherine Lehman is living in Chicago where she says, “I moved 10+ years ago for

Emily Asher!” She adds, “I’m working as a physician assistant at a federally qualified health center and moonlighting as the general contractor for the gut renovation on our 135-year-old house. Looking forward to some calm after the chaos!” She lives with her husband and two “wild boys,” three and six years old.

Robby Zeller ’08.5 sent word that his one-time roommate and fellow Prankster, **Ben Molberger**, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching, the highest award K–12 math and science teachers can receive from the U.S. government. Ben has taught AP and IB mathematics at several high schools in the greater Louisville school district after being recruited by Teach Kentucky. He was recognized for his deep content knowledge and his ability to deliver challenging curriculum to a very diverse group of learners. Congratulations!

Israel Catz sent a note reporting that his family was leaving Boise, Idaho, to move to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he would become the COO/ deputy head of school for the American School of Kinshasa, and Steph (his partner) would be the greatest humanities teacher the Congo has ever seen. While preparing for the trip, they were busy visiting Middlebury friends, “including the incomparable Dr. **Forrest Orme** and his beautiful family for a ski weekend at Mount Rose outside their home in Reno.”

For me (**Ryan**), reuniting with Midd Kids of the greater Boston area has been a blast these past few months, especially when I walked into a classroom for the first time in 15 years only to find PALANA dorm-mate **Ethiophiah Al-Mahdi** auditing the same course at Harvard!

A rapid-fire spin through who else I’ve seen: Raising a toast to the recently engaged **James Tresner**, who also helped reconnect me with **Tory Hayes!** Grateful to sing carols over last Christmas with Lauren Vollmer Forrow ’10 and did a SIM mini-reunion with **Ian** and **Christine Bachman-Sanders**, and Natty Smith ’10. I’m so lucky to spend nearly every week of my Nieman fellowship with Bianca Giaeever ’12.5 as we search for what’s next in journalism and storytelling. Still in Boston this past summer!

—Class Correspondent: **Ryan Kellett** ([ryan.kellett@gmail.com](#)).

2010
Check out a photo on page 83 of a mini-reunion held in Munich, Germany.

—Class Correspondents: **Alice Ford** ([alicemarieford@gmail.com](#)); **Oscar Loyo** ([loyo.oscar@gmail.com](#)).

2011 REUNION CLASS
Austin Davis writes, “My wife, **Anna Mysliwiec**, and I have been living the values that we first practiced at Middlebury: local change leads to global impact. Bending the needle in your backyard can move folks across the world. This is why I ran for city council in our home of Cleveland, Ohio. We won and I’d be honored if you’d take a look: [AustinDavisWard7.com](#).”

Don’t forget our 15th Reunion is June 5–7, 2026!

—Class Correspondent: **Sam Parnell** ([Midd2011@gmail.com](#)).

2012
—Class Correspondents: **Sara Cohen** ([srcohen90@gmail.com](#)); **Paige Keren** ([pkeren12@gmail.com](#)).

2013
Keely Levins was recognized by the Golf Writers Assoc. this past spring during the Golf Writers Assoc. of America’s 2025 Writing Contest when she tied for second place in the Commentary/Analysis category. Her piece, “Cringeworthy viral video showcases problem for women golfers,” talks about the acts of sexism women face when men give them unwanted and unsolicited advice about their golf game, particularly as they practice on golf ranges.

—*Class Correspondents: Elma Burnham (eccburnham@gmail.com); Peter DiPrinzio (peterd1331@gmail.com).*

2014
Kate Miley Kirss and husband Alex (Williams '13) recently celebrated their second anniversary. To see a photo from their wedding and Alex's unique T-shirt, go to the next page.

Tim Garcia writes, "I recently published the *Bailey Bear Goes to Work Coloring Book*; it is available on Amazon and Ingramspark. The coloring book is a follow-up to my first children's book, *Bailey Bear Goes to Work.*"



—*Class Correspondents: Jackie Breckenridge (jackiebreck@outlook.com); Emma Kitchen (m.emma.kitchen@gmail.com); Peter Mattson (petercmattson@gmail.com).*

2015
Last October, **Jack Desbois** released his debut solo album, *My Brother, My Sister, My Kin*, containing a collection of traditional English, Celtic, and American folk songs, Christian songs and hymns, and originals for solo voice and guitar. The album also includes songs inspired by the Middlebury College Choir repertoire! You can listen to Jack's work on Spotify, YouTube, and other streaming services, as well as on his website: www.jackdesbois.com.

Diane Meyer Lowman '81 sent a note saying she enjoyed a night out with friends when they went to hear her son, **Dustin Lowman**, perform at Voices Café in Westport, Conn., in April. Check out his music at dustinlowman.com.

Motlatsi Nkhahle is the country director for football club Kick4Life in Lesotho, Southern Africa. This past spring, Kick4Life was honored with the Laureus Sport for Good Award 2025 by the Laureus World Sports Academy in recognition of its role in changing the lives of young people. Since its foundation in 2005,

Kick4Life has helped more than 250,000 children and young people in Lesotho through a network of high-impact community programs focused on education and sustainable livelihoods. Motlatsi joined Kick4Life in 2018 as operations and programs director, and in 2021 became the first Mosotho country director for the football club.

—*Class Correspondent: Elyse Barnard (elyse.dh.barnard@gmail.com).*

2016 REUNION CLASS
Bao Lin Xu and **Santiago Gomez** got married in June 2023 and welcomed their beautiful son, Oliver Gael Gomez-Xu, in November 2024. Bao is an advertising executive at Amazon and drives brand strategies for Prime Video and *Thursday Night Football*. Santi is a customer success manager at LinkedIn and oversees advertising strategies for large financial enterprise clients and was recently recognized for being among the top 1 percent global best performers at LinkedIn.

Don't forget our 10th Reunion is next June 5–7!

—*Class Correspondents: Emma McDonald (elmcdonald21@gmail.com); Aviva Shwayder (aviva.shwayder@gmail.com).*

2017
Eleanor Lorton sent word that she and Spencer Cage '19 were married on September 7, 2024, in Aspen, Colo. Many of their friends from the Classes of 2017 and 2019 celebrated with them!

John Terhune reports on police and crime for the *Portland Press Herald* in Maine. He previously covered the cities of Bath and Brunswick for the *Times Record* and was a staff writer for *The Forecaster*. When he's not

writing about Maine communities, John spends his time practicing yoga, organizing games of Survivor, and obsessively following the Red Sox farm system.

Michael Brady sent this note in May: "Exciting news from D.C. in the world of political media—**Annie Grayer** was made a senior reporter for CNN. She reports on Capitol Hill across the network's platforms. She did excellent reporting on the Ed Martin nomination to U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia."

—*Class Correspondent: Ivan Valladares (ivanantvall@gmail.com).*

2018
—*Class Correspondents: Georgia Grace Edwards (georgiagrace.edwards@gmail.com); Charlie Mitchell (charlie@tom.org); Hannah Pustejovsky (hannah.pustejovsky@gmail.com).*

2019
Laura Dillon writes, "Last year I married **Alex Williams**, about nine years after meeting in our first-year hall of Hadley. We had 44 of our Middlebury friends, across seven different consecutive class years from 2015 to 2021, join us for the wedding. If that wasn't cool enough, we convinced them to fly to Cartagena, Colombia, for the occasion, which feels very in line with the Middlebury international brand! We had the most amazing time celebrating with everyone, and it was very obvious at the wedding how central Middlebury is to our love story and our life."

2020
—*Class Correspondent: Katelan Newman (katelan.newman@gmail.com).*

2021 REUNION CLASS
Be sure to put the 5th Reunion on your calendar: June 5–7, 2026!

2022
Cassie Kearney has stayed involved in Vermont communities by doing two work trips and presentations through her current job. "I work remotely for the American Academy of Pediatrics/University of Michigan Medical School Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics. (I graduated with my MPH from Michigan last May!) I did a presentation at UVM's Larner College of Medicine last

October, and then I did a talk at White River Valley schools in March."

2023
Last fall **Kristen Watkins** joined Alaska Center for Energy and Power as an Arctic energy transitions research fellow. Her primary project was to investigate the current infrastructure for fossil fuel to see how it could be adapted for clean energy products, especially hydrogen as an energy source.

Congratulations to **Hieu Nguyen**, who was awarded a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship in support of graduate studies at the Stanford School of Medicine. He says, "My career is driven by the reality that half of the world's population doesn't have access to health care, and chronic diseases like cancer lack effective treatments and disproportionately affect underresourced communities. I aspire to become a physician-scientist who bridges clinical care, translational research, and entrepreneurship to tackle this issue."

2024
Congratulations to **Brett Gilman**, who was awarded a Watson Fellowship and is spending this year traveling to the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, Singapore, and Australia to study landscape design movements. Brett designed his own major at Midd to combine his interests in conservation biology, fine art and design, art history, philosophy, and environmental policy to explore the socio-ecological aspects of landscape architecture, and he is excited to take his passions to a global level.

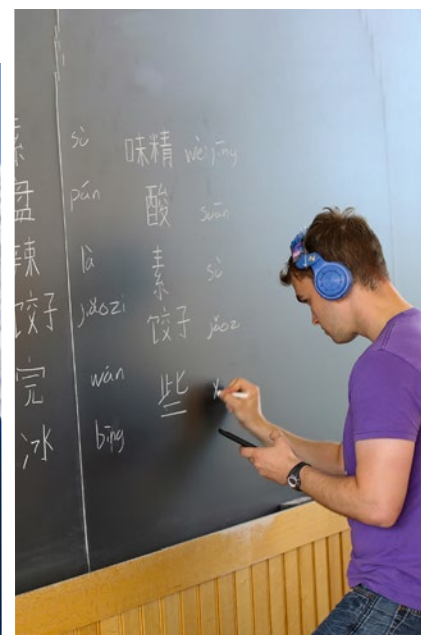
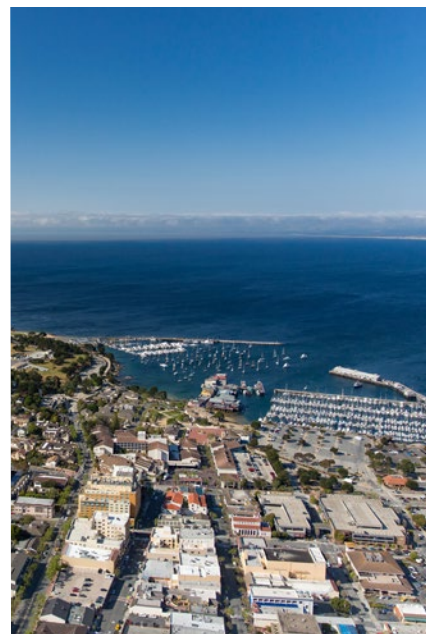
CELEBRATIONS



- 1. Jesse Keenan '09 and Hannah Dumont were married in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass., on September 23, 2023. Middlebury friends who attended included Conor Shaw '08, Joey Colianni '09.5, the newlyweds, Jake Fauver '09.5, Evan Smith '09.5, and Sky Feuer '09.5.
- 2. Patty Hartlieb Selsky '71 and Susan Fritsch Hunter '71 met up for lunch in Sandwich, Mass., and took a walk along the Cape Cod Canal.
- 3. Middlebury friends had a mini-reunion in Munich, Germany: Daniel Honberg '08, Alec Weltzien '08, Lisa Gretebeck '10, Douglas McRae '08, Tristan Axelrod '08, and Kevin Ng '08.
- 4. A group of friends from the Class of 1984 took a trip to Big Sky, Montana: BJ Paik, Andrew Zehner, Buck Dominick, Pete Tichansky, John Hamilton, Mark Ray, Larry Goldstein, Tom Knox, Patrick "Pepsi" McCormick, and Bill Hathaway.
- 5. Friends from the Class of 1993 had a mini-reunion when they traveled to New Orleans to see a Saints football game: (clockwise around table) Josh Miller, Gil Prado, John Linder, Tom Lyons, and Hank Calam.
- 6. Kate Miley '14 married Alex Kirss on May 13, 2023, in northern Virginia, and they celebrated alongside Middlebury friends: Jaya Ghosh '12, Hilary Woodworth Seymour '14.5, Samantha Wasserman '14, Stephen Seymour '14.5, the newlyweds, Sarah Chapin '12, and Madison Clark '14.



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OBITUARIES

Due to a yearlong lapse in the print magazine publication, we are behind in publishing obituaries. We have created a special In Memoriam supplement to help reduce our backlog and ensure we honor all our deceased alumni. The obituaries in it are from the second half of 2023. You can find it at go.middlebury.edu/inmemoriam2025.

1943

Phillip H. Backup, 102, of Redmond, Ore., on March 9, 2024. In 1946, he earned his medical degree from the Univ. of Vermont. He received medical training at Madigan Army Medical Center and continued in the Army Reserves until retirement as a full colonel. He worked in the field of anesthesiology and spent most of his career as head of the anesthesiology dept. at Tacoma (Wash.) General Hospital. Predeceased by first wife Edna, he is survived by wife Ruth, daughters Linda, Peggy '71, and Molly, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and three step-grandchildren.

1945

Elaine King Dandh, 100, of Weslaco, Texas, on January 18, 2024. During WWII, she served in the WAVES. She worked as an English teacher and a realtor before becoming a photographer and editor. She wrote several plays and books. She was predeceased by first husband Dwayne Pullen and second husband Kesari Dandh.

Craig Rowan, 100, of Boise, Idaho, on May 17, 2024. After receiving his DVM from the Veterinary School of Medicine at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, he started his mixed animal veterinary practice in Weiser, Idaho. He retired from that practice after 55 years and provided veterinary services for Simplot

Company's cattle business until he was 95. Predeceased by wife Hortense and son Bruce, he is survived by children Ron, Barry, Paul, Ann, and Margaret, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Shirley Miller Stearns, 99, of Beechurst, N.Y., on March 18, 2024. A member of Pi Phi, she worked as a copywriter for W.T. Grant & Co. in Manhattan. In 1968 she earned a master's in rehabilitation counseling from NYU and had a long career as a rehab therapist at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, retiring in 1992. She was predeceased by husband Donald.

1946

Leila Taylor Baggett, 96, of Keystone Heights, Fla., on November 18, 2020. An Alpha Xi Delta, she had a long career in teaching in Vermont and Florida, including more than 30 years at Spring Park Elementary School in Jacksonville, Fla. Predeceased by husband Howard, she is survived by children Howard and Richard, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Joan Campbell Shaw, 99, of Manchester, Vt., on January 23, 2024. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she worked for Pan American Airlines, two advertising agencies, and as a legal secretary before marrying and raising her children. A loyal alum, she served many years as a class correspondent. Predeceased by husband Douglas, she is survived by children Sally, Andrew, Nancy, Cynthia, and Elizabeth, and seven grandchildren.

1947

Joyce Walsh Heath, 98, of New Haven, Vt., on March 9, 2024. She worked for the Vermont Dept. of Social Welfare for four years. In 1966, she became the director and treasurer for Camp Thorpe in Goshen, Vt., a

camp for children with disabilities, serving until 1991, then remaining as treasurer and trustee until 2006. Predeceased by husband Bill and grandchild Andrea, she is survived by children Barry, David, Jean, Janet, Alan, Mary, Jeffrey, and Nancy, 20 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

1948

Jessie Caswell Linderoth, 98, of Fairfield, Conn., on May 23, 2024. She loved music and sang with the Fairfield County Chorale for 34 years, performing at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall in NYC. She also began a women's singing group, Touch of Class, that performed twice at the White House. Predeceased by husband Karl, she is survived by children Kristina, Hans, and Karl, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1949

Dorothy Morse Cooper, 96, of San Francisco, Calif., on January 25, 2024. She worked in NYC at the Institute of International Education, Latin American division. She later worked several years at Dartmouth for the foreign student advisor and the student counseling director. She and husband John had sons Ronald and Russell.

Marilyn Mulholland Jacobs, 96, of Glens Falls, N.Y., on April 25, 2024. She helped her husband start and run the West Mountain Ski Shop and Ski School in 1962, which evolved into Reliable Racing Supply, where she served as the financial officer. She also earned a master's in teaching from SUNY Albany. Predeceased by husband Thomas '51, she is survived by children Jeffrey, Diana, and John '78, seven grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Robert G. Williams, 100, of Newington, Conn., on March 15, 2024. During WWII, he served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater. He began his career at Connecticut Bank and Trust, where he worked 11 years, then he transferred to Union Trust Co., retiring as VP of market research. Predeceased by wife Elaine, he is survived by daughters Claudia and Cynthia, and four grandchildren.

1950

Albert T. Butterfield, 95, of Franklin, Mass., on January 12, 2024. A member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, he had a 34-year career working at the First National Bank of Boston, retiring as vice president. Predeceased by first wife Lois

(Pattison) '50, he is survived by wife Donna and daughter Susan and her family.

Virginia Hardy Moser, 94, of Middlebury, Vt., on May 4, 2024. A member of Delta Delta Delta, she spent several years working for the CIA. Over the years she and her family lived all over the world as her husband worked for the U.S. Foreign Aid Agency and she worked part-time jobs, including as an administrative assistant at USAID offices.

Philip W. Porter, 95, of Hanover, N.H., on April 24, 2024. A Chi Psi, he earned a master's from Syracuse Univ. and a PhD from the Univ. of London. From 1956 to 2000 he worked in the Geography Dept. at the Univ. of Minnesota, and with a main field of interest in Africa, took many trips to that continent. Predeceased by wife Patricia, he is survived by daughters Janet, Sara, and Alice, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Robert M. Rauner, 98, of Silver Spring, Md., on January 18, 2024. During WWII, he served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific Theater as a radar and electronics technician. After earning a PhD at the London School of Economics, he worked at RAND Corp. then joined the U.S. Dept. of Commerce in D.C. He then served as the director of the Office of Economic Adjustment at the Dept. of Defense, retiring in 1992. He is survived by wife Brenda, children Peter, Catherine, Margaret, and Thomas, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Barbara Wesselmann Stark, 94, of Davidson, N.C., on February 25, 2024. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she earned her master's in education from Boston Univ. and had a long career as an elementary school teacher, retiring from Myers Park Traditional in Charlotte, N.C., in 1990. Predeceased by husband Walter and two stepchildren, she is survived by children Robert, Katherine, and Lynda, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

1951

Joan Macklaier Birkett, 94, of Invermere, British Columbia, Canada, on February 8, 2024. After raising her children, she completed a program in family life education and social work and worked part time in research projects for *Sesame Street* and *Mr. Dressup*. One of her assignments took her to the Arctic Circle to do a project involving

Inuit children. Predeceased by husband John and son Peter, she is survived by children Jennifer, Tim, and Elisa, one grandson, and one great-granddaughter.

John E. Guetens Jr., 95, of Cheshire, Conn., on May 6, 2024. A member of Theta Chi, he served three years in the Marine Corps. He had a long career in industrial manufacturing as a purchasing manager for several different companies, including O.F. Mossberg & Sons. Predeceased by wife Evelyn and grandson Christopher, he is survived by sons John and Vernon, and four grandchildren.

Corolyn Johnson Hudson, 95, of Windsor, Conn., on June 2, 2024. She taught high school English then worked for American Airlines in NYC before marrying. Later she was a sales associate at G. Fox Dept. Store in Hartford, Conn. Predeceased by husband Paul '53, she is survived by children Paul, Lisa, Beth, Marcus, Nancy '88, and Jane, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

R. James Latimer Jr., 95, of Waterbury, Conn., on January 13, 2024. He served in the Army during the Korean War. With a master's in education from Central Connecticut State Univ., he taught 23 years in Waterbury schools and coached at the middle school level. Predeceased by wife Marie and grandson Will, he is survived by daughters Linda, Carrie, Jean, and Mary, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1952

Nina Shapiro Agel, 92, of New York City, N.Y., on April 23, 2024. While at Middlebury, she played cello in the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. She held many jobs, including as an aide with the Public Reception Committee at the UN and head of services at Walker Publishing. She also edited her husband's books. Predeceased by husband Jerome, she is survived by children Julie and Jesse, and two grandchildren.

Robert W. Hisey, 92, of Sarasota, Fla., on March 11, 2024. An Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned an MS and PhD from the Institute of Paper Chemistry and was a registered engineer. He had a long and distinguished career in the paper and pulp industry. Predeceased by son Robert, he is survived by wife Elizabeth, sons Peter, Charles, Richard, and William, daughter Stephanie, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Godfrey "Bob" Morgan, 93, of Great Falls, Mont., on June 24, 2024. He started his business, Big Sky Tool Sales Co., a Snap-On Tools and automotive equipment dealership, in 1962 and ran it for 22 years, retiring in 1984. He spent many years singing and traveling with the Treasure Statesman Barber-shop Chorus. Predeceased by wife Hope, he is survived by daughters Julie and Lynne, and one grandson.

Paul F. Roman, 92, of Newtown, Conn., on January 5, 2024. An Alpha Sigma Psi, he served four years in the Air Force during the Korean War as a nuclear weapons specialist. He worked for General Electric and McGraw-Hill before founding *Fine Woodworking* magazine in 1975. He and his wife developed Taunton Press and over the years launched several special interest magazines as well as books, videos, websites, and online classes. He is survived by wife Janice, children Melinda, Andrea, Suzanne, Sarah '88, and David, 15 grandchildren, including Tom Rahr '19, and one great-grandchild.

Haven Whiteside, 92, of Tampa, Fla., on March 3, 2024. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he earned a master's and PhD in applied physics from Harvard Univ. and taught physics at Amherst, Oberlin, Univ. of Maryland, and Federal City College in D.C. Leaving academia, he became a professional staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Predeceased by first wife Rose, second wife Ann, and son Jonathan, he is survived by daughters Joanna, Katie, and Susan, son Matthew, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1953

Gardner S. Tilton, 93, of Cranston, R.I., on January 10, 2024.

A member of Delta Upsilon, he served in the Navy, where he earned his wings after flight training and served on the aircraft carrier *Coral Sea*. After retiring from the Navy in 1957, he joined the New Hampshire Air National Guard and served 19 years. He had a 34-year career with United Life and Accident Insurance Co., retiring in 1991 as assistant VP in the financial institutions division. Predeceased by grandchild Abbey, he is survived by wife Carol, sons Peter, Michael, and David, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1954

M. Richard Davenport, 92, of High Falls, N.Y., on January 10, 2024. A member of Delta Upsilon, he joined the family fuel oil, gasoline, and LP gas business and retired as president of Heritage Energy. He is survived by wife Betty, children Jim, Sue, Betsy, and David, 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Carol Anderson Gwatkin, 90, of Santa Rosa, Calif., on January 6, 2024. At Middlebury she was a member of Sigma Kappa and part of the a cappella group Sigma Kappa Triple Trio. She worked as a claims adjuster at Liberty Mutual Insurance, then was an active volunteer while raising her children. Predeceased by husband Bill, she is survived by daughters Christina, Cynthia, and Claire '88, and four grandchildren.

Julie Heilborn Horne, 91, of Sarasota, Fla., on June 8, 2024. At Middlebury she was a member of Kappa Delta and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. For many years she was the director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, providing religious freedom, tolerance, and cultural understanding. Predeceased by husband William, she is survived by

children Marjorie, Linda, and William, and six grandchildren.

Foster Kay, 92, of Westport, Mass., on February 16, 2024. A member of Chi Psi, he earned his medical degree from Boston Univ. School of Medicine in 1958. He opened his private dermatology practice in Hamden, Conn., in 1966 and ran it until 2000. He is survived by children Ronald, Pamela, and Jennifer, and two granddaughters.

Duncan "Monk" G. Ogden, 91, of Peru, Vt., on March 16, 2024. A Delta Upsilon, he served two years in the Army in the 3rd Infantry—the Old Guard, where he was a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He earned an MS in geology at the Univ. of Vermont in 1960 and began his career as the U.S. geologist at Vermont Marble Co. He is survived by wife Sally, children Jane '83, Ann, and Hannah, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Elaine Smith Rudd, 92, of Palm Bay, Fla., on June 14, 2024. A Kappa Delta, she attended secretarial school and worked various jobs including in the reservations office at the Park Sheraton Hotel in NYC, as a real estate broker in Lexington, Mass., and as an editor at Krieger Publishing Co. in Melbourne, Fla.

William B. Skiff, 91, of Williston, Vt., on February 21, 2024. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he earned a master's in physical education from Springfield College. He taught PE in Stowe, and served as an Army psychiatrist social worker, administrator of wilderness camps for justice-involved youth, and as a high school guidance counselor. Predeceased by wife Ruth and grandson Silas, he is survived by children Robyn, Bill, Nan, and Todd, and five grandchildren.

Anne M. Tiffany, 91, of Annapolis, Md., on March 7, 2024. A Sigma Kappa, she spent her entire working life in New York City. For 25 years, she worked in book publishing in the editorial dept., then with a literary agency. She then worked for almost 25 years on network TV, beginning in the business affairs dept. and ending in live TV production.

1955

Bruce K. Byers, 90, of Cornwall, Vt., on May 9, 2024. After earning his law degree from Cornell Univ., he worked six years for a law firm before starting his own practice in

1962 in Ridgewood, N.J. In both Ridgewood and Cornwall, he was active in public service, and in 2016, he and wife Sue were awarded the John and Bonnie McCardell Citizen’s Award for community service. Loyal alums, they were also given the Alumni Plaque in 2005. He is survived by wife Sue (Heyer) ’55, children Anne and Christopher ’86, and five grandchildren, including Natalie Byers ’27.

Walter G. Crump III, 91, of Belvedere, Calif., on January 7, 2024. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he worked in sales for Hard Sails and Seaboard Marine on Long Island and started their

West Coast division, then was a manufacturer’s representative for several marine-product companies. With three partners, he built Schoonmaker Point Marina in Sausalito, Calif. Predeceased by wife Ann, he is survived by children Sarah and Walter IV, and three grandchildren.

Gail Howard Flanagan, 90, of Gaithersburg, Md., on January 21, 2024. After college, she worked at MIT two years. After raising her children, she went back to school for computer programming and worked in database design and management as well as Lotus worksheets. Predeceased by husband Bill, she is survived

by daughters Patty, Susan, Kelly, Becca, and Jennifer, and 14 grandchildren.

Alan D. Frese, 91, of North Stamford, Conn., on June 3, 2024. He served two years in the Army, then worked in NYC for Dodd, Mead Publishing Co. as a sales manager. In 1966 he began working for the family business, Hastings House Publishers, as sales manager and VP, then joined Architectural Book Publishing, where he became president.

Carlene Snyder Howland, 90, of Templeton, Calif., on April 5, 2024. A member of Sigma Kappa, she was an active volunteer as she raised her children, in particular spending many years as a Girl Scout leader. Predeceased by husband Dick, she is survived by children Lorinda ’81, Brenda, Lisa,

Donna, and Richard, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Richard B. Lane, 90, of Scituate, Mass., on June 24, 2024. A Kappa Delta Rho, he earned his law degree from Harvard Univ. in 1958. He had a long career as an attorney with Lane, Lane, and Kelly in Braintree, Mass., retiring in 2019. Predeceased by first wife Joan, he is survived by wife Catherine, children Lisa, David, and Peter ’84, stepdaughters Kimberly and Katherine, 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Kenneth R. Milton, 91, of Narragansett, R.I., on May 21, 2024. After working as a land acquisition specialist for oil companies, he was the principal owner of Gamwell & Ingraham Realtors and was a recognized expert real estate broker and appraiser.

Predeceased by wife Barbara, he is survived by children Peter and Cynthia, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1956

Gail Knight Derick, 89, of Holmes Beach, Fla., on March 23, 2024. She taught nursery school and grade school, was a healthcare worker, and served as a hospice volunteer. She was survived by husband Philip ’56, who died on June 4, 2025. Predeceased by grandson Jack, she is survived by children Jim, Jennifer, and Alison, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Sandra Harden Greenman, 89, of Block Island, R.I., on April 6, 2024. A member of Delta Delta Delta, she returned to school in 1971 and earned an MSW from Simmons then worked as the admissions director for Don Orione Nursing Home in East Boston. Predeceased by husband Peter ’56, she is survived by son Chris, daughters Sal and Rebecca, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

John L. Wheatley Jr., 90, of Bedford, Mass., on January 7, 2024. A member of Phi Kappa Tau, he served in the Army two years in Germany. He then joined the family business, R.W. Shattuck & Co., a retail hardware company, and grew the business for over 40 years. He is survived by children John, Linda, and Allison ’84, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1957

Julia French Campbell, 88, of Webster, N.Y., on May 6, 2024. A Kappa Kappa Gamma, she taught high school before marriage and then was a substitute teacher. For many years she also taught English as a second language. She is survived by husband Robert ’57, sons Robert ’81, William, and Frederick, and five grandchildren.

1958

Janet VanWoert Cole, 87, of Ferrisburgh, Vt., on March 26, 2024. She had a 30-year career in education, including teaching 24 years in the South Burlington and Addison Northwest School Districts, mainly in special education. She also worked 27 years with a clinical psychologist, testing and evaluating educational services. She is survived by husband Carl, sons Roderick and John, and three grandchildren.

Betsy Heath Gleason, 87, of Middlebury, Vt., on April 19, 2024. A member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she was an elementary school teacher; an instructor and supervisor in the College’s Dept. of Education; developer and director of a day treatment program for the Counseling Service; and an alumni and development officer at the College for 25th and 50th Reunions, retiring in 1996. She is survived by husband Bob ’54, children Nancy, Amy, and Mark, and nine grandchildren, including Brittany Barrett ’12.

1959

Dean K. Beyer, 86, of Rancho Murieta, Calif., on March 30, 2024. An Alpha Tau Omega, he had a long career with an independent insurance adjusting firm, eventually serving as president and CEO. After retiring in 2002, he worked as a consultant part time for the ASU Group. He and wife Gretchen had three sons, David, Mark, and Bryan.

Gail Spooner Meeson Elker, 86, of Orange, Conn., on May 25, 2024. For many years she worked as a secretary in the Amity Regional School District in Woodbridge, Conn., and earned an MS in counseling from the Univ. of Bridgeport. She then worked as the business manager at By the River Farm. Predeceased by husband Bradford, she is survived by sons Daniel and John, and two grandsons.

Alice Frail Lawson, 86, of Cortland, N.Y., on April 10, 2024. A Sigma Kappa who graduated Phi Beta Kappa, she earned an MEd from Harvard Univ. in 1960 and an MA in French from Middlebury in 1961. She taught French in every grade from kindergarten through 12th grade in public, private, and parochial schools, mainly in the Chicago area. Predeceased by husband Gilbert and daughter Lorrie, she is survived by daughters Robin and Kristin.

John L. Raymond, 90, of Fairfield, Conn., on January 27, 2024. A member of Chi Psi, he

had a long career with Superior Plating Company in sales and management and retired from Superior Technology as president of the company. He is survived by wife Hangyan Luo, children Darcy and Jack, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

1960

Cynthia Spencer Davey, 85, of Jackson, Mich., on April 24, 2024. While at Middlebury she played violin with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and played for over 40 years in the second violin section of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra. She worked many years as a library technician for the Jackson District Library. Predeceased by daughter Gwendolen, she is survived by husband Robert, son Robert, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Elizabeth L. Kelley, 86, of Ann Arbor, Mich., on April 28, 2024. A Pi Beta Phi, she earned her MSW from the Univ. of Pennsylvania in 1962 and worked in child welfare and medical social work. For 10 years she was employed with the Univ. of Michigan adult bone marrow transplant program. She is survived by daughters Merrill and Margaret, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

1961

Alan G. Jeffery, 86, of West Lebanon, N.H., on May 25, 2024. A member of Delta Upsilon, he served four years in the Navy and was a Vietnam veteran. He had a long career as president and CEO of Whitney Screw Corp. in Nashua, N.H., and served as Nashua police commissioner.

Jean Anderson Perry, 83, of Castleton, Vt., on April 13, 2024. A Sigma Kappa, she earned a master’s in French from Middlebury. She had a long career in teaching, including many years

at Otter Valley Union High School in Brandon, Vt., where she retired as chair of the Foreign Languages Dept. She is survived by husband James ’60, children Leslie, Erik, and Heather, and seven grandchildren.

Dennis T’Ang, 84, of Beekman, N.Y., on March 15, 2024. He worked for the New York State Office of Mental Health, where he served as a psychiatric rehabilitation counselor in state hospitals, retiring in 1999. He is survived by wife Carole, son Paul, and one grandson.

1962

Jan Timmerman Abbott, 83, of Essex Junction, Vt., on April 13, 2024. She taught middle school French while earning her master’s in French from Middlebury. She also worked for the Census Bureau and as a reporter and copy editor for the *Essex Reporter*. From 1991 to 2001 she taught English as a second language in K–12 schools. She is survived by husband Harris, children Deborah, Christopher, and Marilyn, and four grandchildren.

James E. Gallagher, 83, of Lamoine, Maine, on May 12, 2024. A Phi Kappa Tau, he earned a master’s in folklore and a PhD in sociology at Indiana Univ. In 1971, he joined the faculty at the Univ. of Maine at Orono, where he taught sociology and in the Honors College for over 30 years. He is survived by wife Kathryn, children Frank, Sean, and Christine, stepchildren Brian and Kasia, and nine grandchildren.

1963

Stephen P. Adams, 83, of Stowe, Vt., on May 1, 2024. He had a long and successful career managing the financial and operational aspects of the Dept. of Medicine at the Univ. of Vermont. He also owned and ran Lamoille Medical Management, managing small, local practices in the Stowe area. Predeceased by wife Linda, he is survived by children Kimberly ’83 and Krister, three granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.

David H. Arnold, 83, of Exeter, N.H., on April 7, 2024. With a master’s from Rutgers Univ., he accepted a job as instructor of mathematics at Phillips Exeter Academy in 1967. He also earned a PhD in the history of mathematics from the Univ. of Toronto and had a long career at Phillips Exeter as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He is survived by wife Andra Crawford and son David Geoffrey.

mensional design. After graduation in 1974, he maintained the art studio at Indiana State University Evansville for two years, then taught sculpture there until being hired by Middlebury in 1978 to teach sculpture and design.

At the College he taught sculpture at all levels as well as beginning and intermediate drawing and color theory. In 1994, he was appointed the Christian A. Johnson Professor of Art. In addition to his teaching, he had a prolific career as an artist, exhibiting his work in solo and group shows across the United States and in France. His sculptural work is held in numerous private and public collections, including the Middlebury College public art collection. His mild steel installation Commotion: Converse and Grasp is located on the lawn just north of the Mahaney Arts Center. “Eric loved teaching and his creative work, and was a remarkably friendly individual,” said Jim Ralph, professor of history.

Outside his life as an artist and educator, Nelson was a tennis player and an ardent fly fisherman, spending many hours on his favorite Vermont rivers as well as several major rivers in the American West. He and his wife and daughter traveled extensively through-



out the United States and Europe. He especially loved time spent with his grandsons, Alden and Andrew—playing games, reading books, teaching them to fish, building things together, and being silly.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dottie Nelson of Middlebury; and daughter and son-in-law, Leah and Christopher Green, and grandsons Alden and Andrew, of Centerville, Massachusetts.

CLASS ACTS

F. Albert Weaver, 82, of Rancho Mirage, Calif., on March 5, 2024. With a master’s in German from Middlebury, he taught French and German at Bridgewater (N.J.) Raritan High School, served as chair of the Foreign Language Dept., and retired as the supervisor of foreign languages.

1964
Timothy Y. Hayward, 82, of Middlesex, Vt., on March 17, 2024. After serving three years in the Marine Corps, he learned computer programming and worked as a senior analyst at National Life Insurance. In 1974 he became involved in Vermont politics, serving as a representative; managing the U.S. representative campaign of Jim Jeffords; serving on Gov. Dick Snelling’s executive staff; and serving as chief of staff for Gov. Jim Douglas ’72. He also worked as president of the Vermont Bankers’ Assoc. from 1985 to 2002. He is survived by wife Susan, children Heidi, Nathaniel, and Zachary, and seven grandchildren.

John R. Roy, 81 of Slingerlands, N.Y., on January 2, 2024. A Theta Chi, he earned two master’s degrees, in art history and in political science, from the Univ. of Albany. He then joined the faculty of Hudson Valley Community College in 1967 and taught art history, folklore, and composition, retiring in 2000 as professor emeritus of English. He is survived by wife Raona, children Ethan, Nathan, and Brian, and three grandchildren.

1965
Robert C. Hall, 81, of Ashburnham, Mass., on February 13, 2024. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he served in the Army in Vietnam as an officer. Earning a master’s in history from UMass Amherst in 1970, he had a long career in teaching and coaching, mainly at Cushing Academy. He is survived by daughter Evelyn, one grandson, and partner Jan Bedula.

1967
Elizabeth Trudeau Morgan, 78, of Vero Beach, Fla., on January 8, 2024. She worked for six years for a bank then earned her bachelor’s at UC Berkeley. She then managed a bookstore in Wayne, Pa., before raising her children. She is survived by husband Howard, children Randy, Chip, and Anna, and seven grandchildren.

Alexander L. Taylor III, 79, of Lakeville, Conn., on February 8, 2024. With a master’s

in journalism from the Univ. of Missouri, he was a reporter for radio and TV and the *Detroit Free Press*, then wrote for *Time* and *Fortune* magazines, covering the auto industry. He won numerous awards for his writing. He was also an adjunct professor at Columbia Univ.’s Graduate School of Journalism. He is survived by wife Mary, son Alex, and daughter Madeleine.

1968
Walter A. Becker, 78, of The Villages, Fla., on March 7, 2024. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he worked 35 years as a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch. Predeceased by first wife Kathlein, he is survived by wife Margie, son Robert, daughter Dawn, and two grandchildren.

1969
Jill Woodman Sisson, 76, of Morrison, Colo., on April 13, 2024. With a JD from the Univ. of Colorado Law School, she worked in private practice from 1974 to 1992, then worked as general counsel at Graphic Packaging from 1992 to 2003 and at Einstein Bagel Bros. from 2003 to 2009. Retiring from law, she sold women’s clothing for Worth New York. She is survived by husband Gary and sister Odiorne Beebe ’65.

Elizabeth Paullin Terrell, 76, of Traverse City, Mich., on March 30, 2024. With a bachelor’s from Michigan State Univ., and a master’s in education from Central Michigan Univ., she had a long career as a social studies teacher at both the middle and high school levels. She is survived by children Katherine, Julie, and Christopher, and three grandchildren.

H. Stevenson Washburn, 76, of West Hartford, Conn., on May 26, 2024. He joined the family business, Plainville Casting Co., as assistant plant manager,

served as vice president, and became president in 1984. He later worked as general manager at Omega Corp. in Farmington, Conn. He is survived by wife Noreen, children Melissa, Courtney, Steve ’02, and Kelly, and seven grandchildren.

1971
K. John Peterson, 74, of Fort Miller, N.Y., on January 3, 2024. He worked for Equitable/AXA Advisors as a financial director until his retirement in 2017. He is survived by wife Jan, and sons Greg and Karl.

Neil R. Stroock, 74, of Lafayette, Calif., on January 23, 2024. He earned a master’s and MBA from the Univ. of California, Berkeley, and worked for AT&T/Pacific Telephone in market research and statistics before transitioning into more IT work and eventually working many years at Kaiser Permanente in financial, marketing, and CRM systems then Enterprise IT Security. He is survived by wife Martha, sons Joshua, Nathaniel, and David, and two grandchildren.

1972
Elizabeth A. Fougner, 74, of New York, N.Y., on April 12, 2024. She earned an MAT in French from Cornell Univ. Then with an MBA from New York Univ., she had a long career in finance with several institutions, including KPMG, Chemical Bank, and Fidelity. She is survived by brothers Arthur, Robert, and John.

1973
Kathryn Aring Piper, 72, of Lower Waterford, Vt., on March 6, 2024. Obtaining a law degree from Suffolk Law School in 1976, she worked for a law firm then was a law clerk and a public defender in Vermont. Earning a master’s in counseling, she worked in juvenile law until 2011 then received her PhD in social policy in 2016 and worked as the

senior policy analyst at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. She is survived by husband Bill ’71, children Alison, Samuel, and Caroline, and four grandchildren.

1974
James D. Kelly, 71, of Columbus, Ind., on May 14, 2024. After earning a master’s in industrial and labor relations from Cornell Univ., he had a 34-year career with Cummins Engine Co., retiring in 2010 as VP/President of the engine business. He is survived by wife Terri, children Abigail, Jessica, and Patrick, and four grandchildren.

1975
Richard J. Bamberg Jr., 73, of Vieques, Puerto Rico, on November 18, 2021. For several years he managed a guest house and writing retreat in Puerto Rico. He is survived by children Alexandra and Max, and former wives Jane Roy Brown ’75 and Katharine Allentuck.

David G. Brown, 70, of Old Saybrook, Conn., on January 19, 2024. After earning his bachelor’s from Dartmouth, he taught English to Tibetan exiles in Nepal. He earned a master’s degree from Wesleyan Univ. then taught several years at the Hammonasset School, a private school in Madison, Conn.

W. Durand “Randy” Eppler, 70, of Denver, Colo., on February 27, 2024. Earning a master’s in mineral economics, he had a long career in the mining industry. He was active in the Society of Mineral Engineers, coauthoring a book on project finance. He is survived by wife Jean Scandlyn ’75 and sons Andrew and Alex ’10.

John H. Schwab, 72, of Bainbridge Island, Wash., on May 21, 2024. After working in theater in NYC, he earned a master’s from the Existential Phenomenological Psychology program at Seattle Univ. and a doctorate in clinical psychology at Seattle Pacific Univ. He ran a private practice in clinical psychology in the Seattle area for more than 20 years. He is survived by wife Robin and children Peter and Rachel.

1980
Patricia E. Swanson, 65, of Paicines, Calif., on March 24, 2024. After earning a PhD from Stanford Univ., she taught at CSU-Stanislaus for five years and then at San Jose State Univ.

for 26 years, teaching math methods classes and serving as chair of the Dept. of Teacher Education. She is survived by husband David and children Elizabeth, Matthew, and Peter.

1982
Mary E. Lane, 63, of Stamford, Conn., on February 20, 2024. With a master’s in international affairs from Columbia Univ., she worked at Asia Society, Citibank, and the Bank of New York, specializing in Asian markets. She then had a career in teaching ESL and Mandarin at Tenafly (N.J.) High School. She is survived by husband Paul Cristello and son Liam.

Patricia Job McGrath, 63, of Killington, Vt.,

on March 12, 2024. She taught at Mount St. Joseph Academy and coached girls soccer and the ski teams for many years. She and her husband owned and managed the Inn at Long Trail in Killington. She is survived by husband Murray and sons Connor and Brogan.

1983
Wendy E. Coughlan, 62, of North Ferrisburgh, Vt., on February 12, 2024. In 1989 she earned her MEd in integrated learning from Antioch Univ. as well as a

certificate in Waldorf education. She taught over 20 years at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School. She is survived by spouse Bet Dews and children Soren, Rosa, and Nicholas.

Robert D. Norberg, 63, of Walpole, Mass., on April 27, 2024. He had a long career in commercial real estate in Boston at various companies, including BlackRock and AEW. He is survived by wife Robin, children Robert ’10, Elizabeth, Bryan, Christopher, and Holly, and four grandsons.

1985
Christopher L. Santella, 61, of Portland,

Ore., on May 23, 2024. After publishing *Fifty Places to Fly-Fish Before You Die*, he wrote 18 more books as part of the *Fifty Places...Before You Die* series. He wrote hundreds of articles on fly-fishing, golf, and other recreational pursuits and collected 30 of them for his anthology *The Tug Is the Drug*. He also wrote a children’s book and a work of fiction. A creative musician, he also recorded an original rock opera. He is survived by wife Dee and daughters Cassidy and Annabel.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles F. MacCormack

OCTOBER 27, 1941–MAY 22, 2025

Charles F. MacCormack, a member of the Class of 1963 and a former executive in residence at Middlebury, died on May 22, 2025, at Evergreen Woods, North Branford, Connecticut. He was 83. MacCormack was an internationally respected humanitarian, educator, and global development leader who served as president and CEO of Save the Children U.S. from 1993 to 2011.

MacCormack was born on October 27, 1941, in Melrose, Massachusetts. After graduating from Middlebury, he went on to pursue a Master of International Affairs and then a PhD in political science at Columbia University. He was a Fulbright Fellow at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, a National Science Foundation Fellow at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and a research fellow in foreign policy studies at The Brookings Institution.

For 16 years he led the Experiment in International Living in Brattleboro, Vermont, expanding its global education, development, and exchange programs. In 1993, he joined Save the Children, where he served as president and CEO until retiring in 2011. During his tenure, he led the organization through unprecedented growth in

impact, scale, and global influence, extending the reach of its programs to over 50 countries. He was instrumental in the creation of Save the Children International, forging a unified global movement for children’s rights and well-being.

MacCormack held leadership roles across many of the world’s foremost humanitarian and development bodies, including serving as chair of InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S.-based international NGOs, and sitting on the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid and the Food Security Advisory Committee of the U.S., to name a few of his commitments. He was a longstanding member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Education from Middlebury, an honorary Doctor of Laws from Clark University, and an honorary Doctor of Laws from Fairfield University.

In 2012 he returned to Middlebury to serve as executive in residence and share his expertise in worldwide initiatives addressing global health, food and nutrition, and economic development, among other issues. Sarah Stroup, professor of political science, cotaught two senior seminars with him on global development, which she says students described as “fantastic” and “a once-in-a-lifetime experience.” She adds, “Charlie brought personal stories



from an insider, connections with other leaders in the field, and an understanding of the complexity of development work. He was a network builder, a hopeful leader, and a warm mentor. I heard him speak about his career many times, and he always started with a story of a speaker at Middlebury who changed his life. He returned the favor for so many of our students.” That speaker, Eduardo Mondlane, leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front, inspired MacCormack to follow the career path he chose.

Predeceased by his beloved wife, Susan Ross, he is survived by devoted sons Cameron and Fraser and his four cherished grandchildren, Harper, Desmond, Macaulay, and Dawson.

CLASS ACTS

1986
James C. Thompson, 60, of New York, N.Y., on May 17, 2024. After college, he worked for many years at Middlebury in admissions then in the Development Office. He also earned a master’s from Bread Loaf School of English in 1994. After Middlebury, he worked in development at Columbia Univ. and in admissions at Ethical Culture Fieldston School.

1992
Merritt J. Green, 53, of Arlington, Va., on January 9, 2024. With a law degree from Syracuse Univ. College of Law, he worked for Venable then founded General Counsel, a full-service law firm in McLean, Va., and grew the firm over the next 20 years. He is survived by wife Sarah Devine, and children Sasha, Quinn, and Dillon.

1994
Thomas L. Volkert, 52, of Belmont, Mass., on June 7, 2024. With an MS in molecular biology and biotechnology from Tufts Univ., he served as director of Genome Technology Core at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Mass., and worked as VP of genomics and a consultant at Paratus Sciences. He is survived by wife Angela and sons Vincent and Dexter.

1995
Kelly A. Hefner, 50, of Wakefield, R.I., on March 20, 2024. She worked as a special claims manager for Traveler’s Insurance then as an associate producer at Discovery Channel.

2000
Oregon J. Shearin, 45, of Los Angeles, Calif., on February 12, 2024. After leaving Middlebury, he took classes at City College of New York then moved to California, where he worked at Bank of America as a merchant teller, personal banker, and small

business banker. He is survived by wife Arames.

2002
Adam G. George, 45, of Cries, Switzerland, on April 2, 2024. He was a professional climber, who had climbed all over the world. After earning a certificate from the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations, he served as a Swiss mountain guide and established Into the Mountains, a guide service, with his wife. He is survived by wife Caroline and daughter Olivia.

2013
Robert C. Carpenter, 33, of Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 6, 2024. With an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, he excelled in his years at Kaiser Associates and more recently, at the Knot Worldwide, where he was chief of staff. He is survived by wife Emily, parents Stephen and Wendy, and sister Lily.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

1952
Barbara Leavell Smith, 96, MA French, of East Poestenkill, N.Y., on May 27, 2024. She was a beloved French teacher at Milton Academy in Massachusetts. Then moving to New York, she was heavily involved in theater, with acting and directing.

1954
Robert R. Morrison, 94, MA Spanish, of Gainesville, Fla., on May 24, 2024. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he had a long career as a teacher of Spanish and French language and literature, retiring in 1994.

1959
Imelda L. Sansone, 88, MA Italian, of Lutherville, Md., on April 14, 2024. She taught French, Spanish, and Latin for nearly 35 years for Baltimore County Public Schools at what is now Pikesville High School.

1960
Anne Dyson Rodriguez, 90, MA Spanish, of Greensboro, N.C., on March 12, 2024. She had a long career teaching Spanish at both the high school and college levels.

1961
William J. Laux Jr., 93, MA Spanish, of Great Falls, Mont., on February 18, 2024. After 26 years of active duty with the Navy, including during the Vietnam War, he taught

Spanish at Chantilly High School in Virginia then transitioned back to the defense sector.

1962
Jacquelyn Sparks Coy, 84, MA Italian, of New Providence, N.J., on March 16, 2024. After working at Banca d’Italia in NYC, she had a long career as a life insurance broker.

Abigail Treat Stecewicz, 92, MA French, of Canton, Conn., on February 5, 2024. She taught many years at Windsor Locks (Conn.) High School then later worked nine years at Education Connection in Litchfield, Conn.

Patricia A. Sullivan, 91, MA French, of Tiverton, R.I., on May 3, 2024. After teaching French, she joined the Admissions Office at Rhode Island College, where she served as an admissions representative and administrator.

1963
William W. Mount Jr., 88, MA German, of Spartanburg, S.C., on January 15, 2024. He was an ordained United Methodist minister and Albert C. Outler Professor of Religion Emeritus at Wofford College.

1965
Sr. Maria Theresa de Bourbon, 88, MA Spanish, of Elmsford, N.Y., on March 24, 2024. She entered the Sisters of the Divine Compassion in 1956 and taught school for 27 years before beginning her ministry in pastoral outreach, prison ministry, and education. She earned an MSW in 1996.

Rosita Navarro Martinez, 93, MA Spanish, of Lakeland, Fla., on February 18, 2024. She was part of the original faculty at Valencia College then went on to teach at Florida Southern College, retiring in 2017.

1966
Gerald D. Kenjorski, 92, MA

English, of Tunkhannock, Pa., on April 15, 2024. He taught at Archmere Academy in Delaware and at Governor’s Academy in Massachusetts.

Kevin J. O’Neill, 87, MA German, of College Station, Texas, on June 24, 2024. He had a 30-year career in the Army, attaining the rank of colonel. He then served as a special education teacher at Bremond (Texas) Independent School.

Anacleto Rodriguez Jr., 88, MA Spanish, of Allen Park, Mich., on May 8, 2024. He worked many years for the Social Security Administration in Dearborn, Mich.

William Small, 84, MA German, of Auburn, Ala., on March 9, 2024. He had a long career teaching German language and literature in the Foreign Language Dept. at the Univ. of Maine in Orono.

1967
Marjorie Bauman Fonto, 93, MA Spanish, of Hilliard, Ohio, on April 11, 2024. She taught Spanish for 22 years at Clinton Junior High School in Columbus, Ohio.

Thomas R. Vosteen, 80, MA French, of Iowa City, Iowa, on May 30, 2024. He had a long career teaching French at Eastern Michigan Univ., retiring as professor emeritus.

1968
Roger A. Castiglione, 87, MA Italian, of Emerson, N.J., on February 28, 2024. He had a successful career in international business for over 40 years.

1969
Bruce M. Campbell, 78, MA French, of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, on April 3, 2024. In 1969 he began teaching French and Spanish at Saint John High School and retired in 2001 as the head of the French and Spanish Departments.

Judith Hanson Parsons, 77, MA Spanish, of Whitehall, Mich., on May 20, 2024. She taught Spanish, English, and French for 27 years at Muskegon Heights High School and also served in the Michigan Army National Guard for 20 years.

Judith L. Pool, 89, MA German, of Northampton, Mass., on February 4, 2024. She was a popular French teacher at Frontier

Regional High School in South Deerfield, Mass., where she taught for 25 years.

1970
John De Mado, 77, MA French, of Marco Island, Fla., on April 22, 2024. He taught French and Spanish, had a career in foreign language educational publishing, and established John De Mado Language Seminars LLC.

1971
Elaine Winzler Mayer, 94, MA French, of Middletown, R.I., on February 22, 2024. She taught French for eight years at Salve Regina Univ. She helped found the Anthropology Dept., which she chaired until retiring after 28 years of teaching.

Elizabeth F. Wahlquist, 90, MLitt English, of Provo, Utah, on February 22, 2024. She taught English for 12 years at Oxbow High School in Bradford, Vt., and 20 years at Gilford (N.H.) High School then taught 47 years in the English Dept. at Brigham Young Univ.

1973
Barbara P. Black, 76, MA French, of Luray, Va., on April 8, 2024. After teaching French and Spanish at High Point Univ., she joined the faculty at Bridgewater College in 1983 and taught in the Foreign Languages Dept. until 2012.

Gerald Christiano, 98, MA Italian, of Troy, N.Y., on May 25, 2024. He served in the Navy during WWII aboard the destroyer USS *Caperton* and then served seven years with the Merchant Marines. He taught English and directed musicals in the Lansingburgh School District for 20 years.

1975
William F. Christian Jr., 74, MA German, of Bloomington, Ind., on January 30, 2024. He worked as a cook for most of his career, with many years at Steak and Shake.

Nancy R. Leko, 72, MA Spanish, of Hilton Head, S.C., on June 20, 2024. She had a 30-year career in education, teaching Spanish and working as a guidance counselor at Cleveland (Ohio) South High School.

1977
Mary E. Carver, 78, MA French, of Spartanburg, S.C., on June 11, 2024. She spent 30 years teaching French at Spartanburg High School, then taught French for 15 years at Spartanburg Community College.

1979
Lillie Jackson Trent, 87, MA French, of Martinsburg, W.V., on March 19, 2024. For 20 years she taught French at South Hunterdon Regional High School in Lambertville, N.J., then was an adjunct professor at American Univ. and Northern Virginia Community College.

1984
William M. Vargas, 79, MA English, of Woodstock, Vt., on June 4, 2024. He taught English for 12 years at Oxbow High School in Bradford, Vt., and 20 years at Gilford (N.H.) High School, retiring in 2004.

1985
Fr. Augustus C. Puleo, 70, MA Spanish, of Norristown, Pa., on April 3, 2024. Ordained in 2005, he was appointed pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Norristown in 2011, and in 2022, he was named the director of the English and Spanish language program (ESL) at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

1986
Joseph M. O’Brien, 71, MA English, of Portland, Maine, on April 11, 2024. He taught English at Albany Academy for Boys for 10 years and served as assistant headmaster and teacher at Manlius Pebble Hill School in Dewitt, N.Y., for 20 years.

2000
Catherine Quinn Perry, 48, MA Italian, of Gettysburg, Pa., on April 13, 2024. She was on the staff of Special Collections at Gettysburg College for 17 years.

STAFF

Lucien J. Hotte Jr., 77, of Bridport, Vt., on February 10, 2025. He earned his BA at Northeast Missouri Univ., where he competed on the track and field team and

was the 1969 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Assoc. shot put champion as well as a runner-up in 1970. After college, he returned to Middlebury and worked for more than 40 years as a field representative for Agri-Mark. In 1986, he joined the College track and field community as a volunteer and was hired as an assistant coach in 1994. His dedication as a throws coach produced 15 NESCAC champions on the women’s team and 12 conference title holders in the men’s program. He was part of six conference championship teams and coached six individual NCAA champions. He was a member of six NESCAC Coaching Staff of the Year honors. Predeceased by brother Leo Hotte and sister Roseanna Lesser, he is survived by siblings Barbara Gleeson, Julia Benoit, Timothy Hotte, Jesse Hotte, Laura Altman, and Lisa Taylor.

Norma Hurlburt Leduc, 70, of Halifax, Va., on February 11, 2025. She joined the Facilities staff at the College in 1983 as a custodian and in 1987 became a counter attendant at Brown Pool. From 1998 to 2009, she served as an assistant men’s and women’s swimming coach and then became the assistant aquatics director until her retirement in 2019. She was also the head guard supervisor at the natatorium from 2003 to 2009. She handled the bulk of the administrative work supporting the teams while also training, hiring, and supervising the lifeguard staff. She was also a regular presence at public swimming pools across Addison County as a certified swimming and lifeguard instructor. She is survived by husband Joseph Marcel Gerald Leduc, sons Marcel Paul and Lance Marc, and four grandchildren.

Richmond “Dick” G. Littlefield, 97, of Salisbury, Vt., on March 13, 2025. After graduating from Bryant College, he served in the Occupation of Germany as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army and was a member of the 43rd Division, 169th Antiaircraft Battalion from 1950 to 1952. He then entered Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, graduating in 1964 and passing the CPA exam. He joined the College in 1967 where he worked in the Treasurer’s Office, retiring in 1997 as assistant treasurer. He had a lifelong love of music, especially jazz, dating back to his days as a high school drummer. Predeceased by son Bradford, he is survived by wife Eleanor, children Robin, Gretchen, Duncan, and Thatcher, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Hans L. Raum, 84, of Cornwall, Vt., in December 2024. He held degrees from Pennsylvania State Univ. and Drexel Univ. He joined the Middlebury staff as an assistant librarian in 1975 after having worked in various library roles at Castleton State College and Penn State. In 1977 he was promoted to associate librarian, a position he held until his retirement in 2015. He sought to make the collections of the library accessible and was particularly helpful to students seeking primary sources. He was also an early collaborator working with other Vermont research libraries and museums as well as the Vermont Historical Society to collect and preserve Vermont history.

George W. Whitney Jr., 87, of Monkton, Vt., on November 3, 2024. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Brown Univ. and joined the Middlebury staff in 1973 as a purchasing agent. He was eventually named director of operations, assuming responsibility for daily operations at the College. He oversaw the construction of several significant projects including the Grille, McCardell Bicentennial Hall, and Chip Kenyon ’85 Arena. He spent over 20 years as director of operations before retiring in 2003. He was known for his method of management deemed MBWA or Management by Wandering Around due to his practice of seeking out coworkers to check on their well-being. He is survived by wife Barbara, children Kristen, Kimberly, and Todd, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

APPROACHING 100

Who's who at Bread Loaf
over the years.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW RAE

1. Maxine Kumin
poet

2. Randall Kenan
novelist

3. Louise Glück
poet

4. Robert Cohen
novelist

5. Chang-rae Lee
novelist

6. Matt Jennings
interloper

7. Jay Parini
poet, novelist, biographer

8. Willa Cather
novelist, short story writer

9. Andre Dubus III
novelist

10. Norman Mailer
novelist, essayist, nonfiction writer

11. Susan Choi
novelist

12. Alex Marzano Lesnevic
nonfiction writer

13. John Ciardi
poet, translator

14. Barry Lopez
essayist, novelist, nonfiction writer

15. Herschel Brickell
newspaper editor, columnist, literary critic

16. Theodore Roethke
poet

17. Richard Ford
novelist

18. Joseph Brodsky
poet, essayist

19. Tracy K. Smith
poet

20. Hernan Diaz
novelist

21. Katherine Anne Porter
essayist, novelist, poet

22. Charles Baxter
novelist, essayist, poet

23. Archibald MacLeish
poet

24. Michael Cunningham
novelist, screenwriter

25. Ted Conover
nonfiction writer

26. John Irving
novelist

27. Carson McCullers
novelist, short story writer, essayist

28. Shirley Jackson
novelist, short story writer

29. Percival Everett
novelist

30. Jericho Brown
poet

31. Noreen Cargill
administrative director

32. W. H. Auden
poet

33. Bernard DeVoto
essayist, nonfiction writer, novelist

34. Robert Pack
poet

35. Truman Capote
nonfiction writer, playwright

36. Don Mitchell
novelist, essayist, screenwriter

37. John Gardner
novelist, essayist, literary critic

38. Cheryl Strayed
nonfiction writer

39. Anne Lamott
novelist, nonfiction writer

40. William Carlos Williams
poet

41. Christopher Merrill
poet, nonfiction writer, translator

42. Julia Alvarez
novelist, poet, essayist

43. Ursula Hegi
novelist, short story writer

44. Richard Yates
novelist, short story writer

45. Edward Hirsch
poet

46. Eudora Welty
short story writer, novelist

47. Czeslaw Milosz
poet

48. Isaac Asimov
novelist

49. Walter Mosley
novelist

50. Catherine Drinker Bowen
biographer

51. Robert Frost
poet

52. Jennifer Grotz
director, poet, translator

53. Tiphane Yanique
novelist, short story writer, poet, essayist

54. Saul Bellow
novelist

55. Rebecca Makkai
novelist, short story writer

56. Jane Smiley
novelist

57. Michael Collier
poet

58. Joyce Carol Oates
novelist, playwright, poet, short story writer, nonfiction writer

59. Galway Kinnell
poet

60. Octavio Paz
poet

61. Yusef Komunyakaa
poet

62. Ron Powers
biographer, novelist, nonfiction writer

63. Judy Blume
novelist

64. Van Jordan
poet

65. Natasha Trethewey
poet

66. Russell Banks
novelist, poet

67. Paul Muldoon
poet

68. David Bain
nonfiction writer

69. Flannery O'Connor
short story writer, novelist

70. Helen Schulman
novelist, short story writer, screenwriter

71. Michael Paterniti
nonfiction writer

72. Wallace Stegner
novelist

73. Francine Prose
novelist, short story writer

74. Jennifer Egan
novelist, short story writer

75. Mark Strand
poet, essayist, translator

76. Theodore Morrison
poet, novelist

77. Robert Pinsky
poet, essayist, translator

78. Julia Child
nonfiction writer

79. Scott Russell Sanders
novelist, essayist, nonfiction writer

80. Tim O'Brien
novelist

81. Joan Didion
nonfiction writer, essayist

82. Toni Morrison
novelist

83. Ellen Bryant Voigt
poet

84. Susan Orlean
nonfiction writer

85. Claire Messud
novelist

86. Fletcher Pratt
nonfiction writer, novelist

87. Lisa Simpson
Word Loaf attendee

88. Moe Szyslak
Word Loaf attendee

89. Bernard Malamud
novelist, short story writer

90. Alexander Chee
novelist, nonfiction writer, essayist

91. Ralph Ellison
novelist

92. Donald Hall
poet

93. Lauren Groff
novelist, short story writer



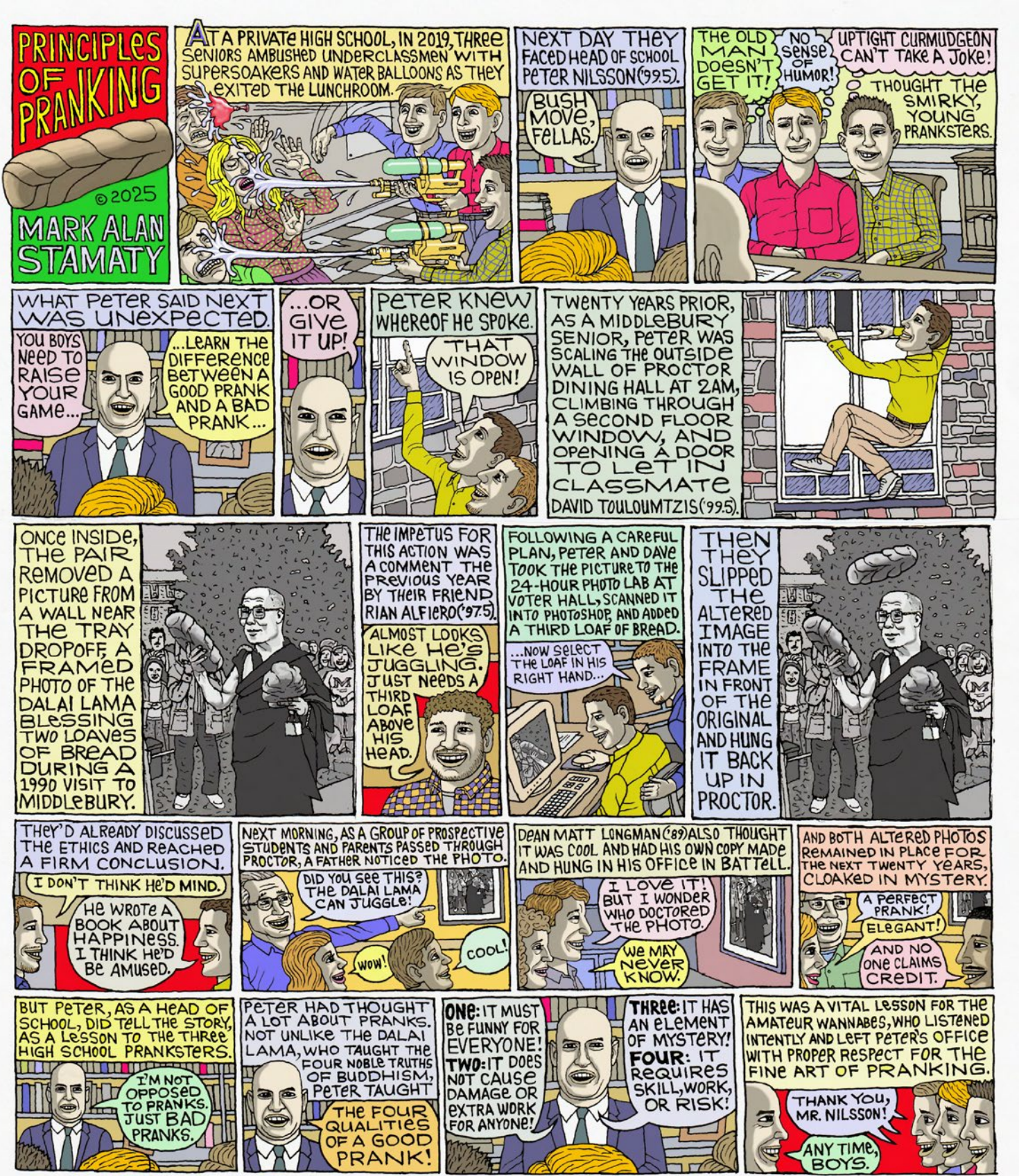


ILLUSTRATION BY MARK ALAN STAMATY



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